More solons seek ouster of BSP governor

STORY ON PAGE A2

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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GMA asked Davide to administer oath

BY ROCKY NAZARENO
AND NORMAN BORDADORA

A SUPREME Court justice confirmed yesterday that 12 justices decided to swear in then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as President only after she sent a letter before noon on Jan. 20 requesting Chief Justice Hilario

GMA/ A18

PLDT subsidiary buys 67% of GMA-7

A SUBSIDIARY of PLDT's beneficial trust fund last night signed a memorandum of understanding with GMA Network Inc. for the acquisition of a 67-percent stake in the country's second biggest TV network. The deal would cost Mediaquest Holdings Inc. P8.4 billion. The signatories to the MOU included PLDT president Manuel V. Pangilinan, Mediaquest president Antonio R. Samson, and GMA 7 executives Joel Jimenez, Felipe Gozon and Gilberto R. Duavit Jr.

Anthony Alcantara

SALUTE to the Commander in Chief when she visits the home of the Scout Rangers in Camp Tecson, San Miguel, Bulacan.
VAL HANDUMON

House, Senate unanimously confirm Guingona as veep

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA
AND CATHY C. YAMSUAN

BOTH chambers of Congress yesterday confirmed the nomination of Senate Minority Leader Teofisto Guingona Jr. for Vice President, clearing the way for his being sworn into the second highest post.

At the House, congressmen unanimously passed a resolution confirming Guingona's nomination at exactly 7:27 p.m. Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen, who had earlier objected vehemently to it, was not in his seat when they did.

Before passing the resolution, the lawmakers first allowed South Cotabato Rep. Lualhati Antonino, representing the Nationalist People's Coalition, to read the party's endorsement of Guingona's nomination.

Mandaluyong Rep. Neptali Gonzales Jr., presiding officer, then asked whether there was any objection to the resolution. Hearing none, he banged the gavel to signify that the measure had been passed.

When Dilangalen returned, he insisted that the measure was illegal and resumed his tirade against it.

Earlier at the Senate, all 18 senators present voted to confirm Guingona's nomination.

But Senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Juan Ponce Enrile voted "yes" with reservations, citing the pending challenge in the Supreme Court on

HOUSE/ A19

Rightists eyed in slay

Rebel group vows to avenge Lagman murder

BY ANDREA T. ECHAVEZ,
D. T. MALLARI JR.,
C. HERRERA AND C. YAMSUAN

BICKERING militant and moderate labor groups have banded together to denounce the killing of Filemon "Popoy" Lagman as they vowed to take to the streets to mount an indignation rally in the next few days.

But the Partido ng Manggagawang Pilipino, an underground revolutionary party, is planning a more drastic action.

The group vowed to avenge the death of Lagman, its former secretary general.

"The Party vows to exact justice for his assassination in our own way. We will pursue the killers and masterminds to the ends of the earth," Patricio Ramirez, the group's spokesperson, said

REBEL/ A18

PNP suspects include Estrada loyalists

BY C. HERRERA, P. TUBEZA, C. PABLO,
C. ESGUERRA AND A. TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

A RIGHTWING group fiercely loyal to ousted President Joseph Estrada could be behind the assassination of labor leader Filemon Lagman, police authorities yesterday said.

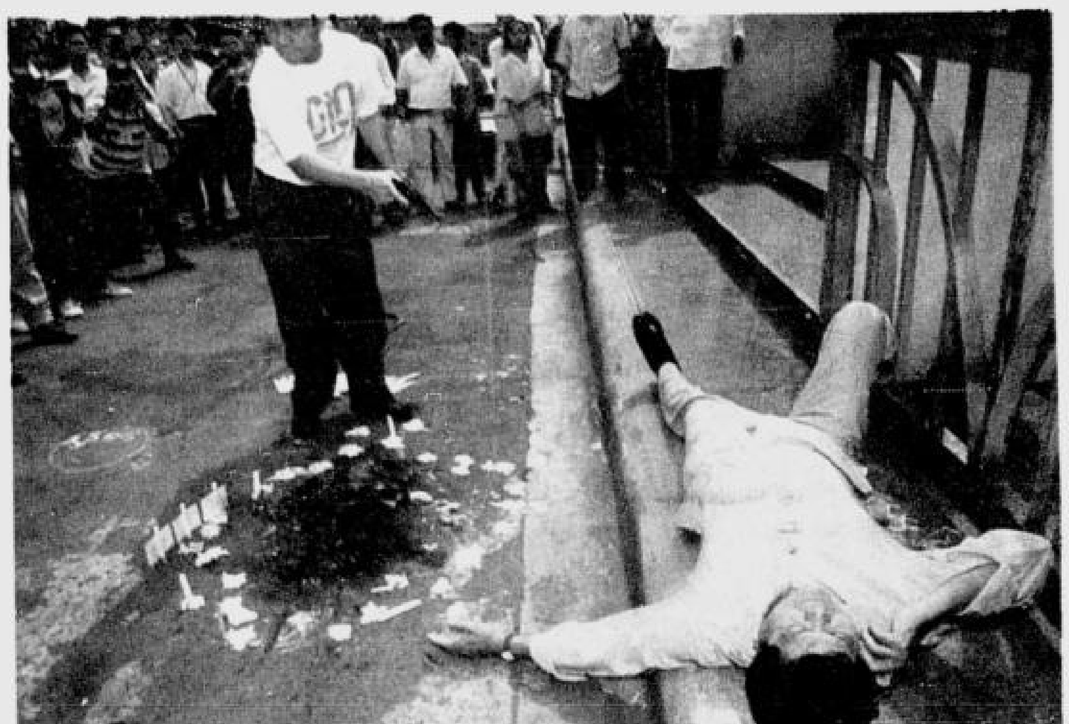
Deputy Director General Leandro Mendoza, acting Philippine National Police (PNP) chief, said a group out to destabilize the newly installed administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo was among the suspects in the killing.

"One of the angles that we are pursuing is that this group is a rightist and counter-revolutionary group," Mendoza told a press conference.

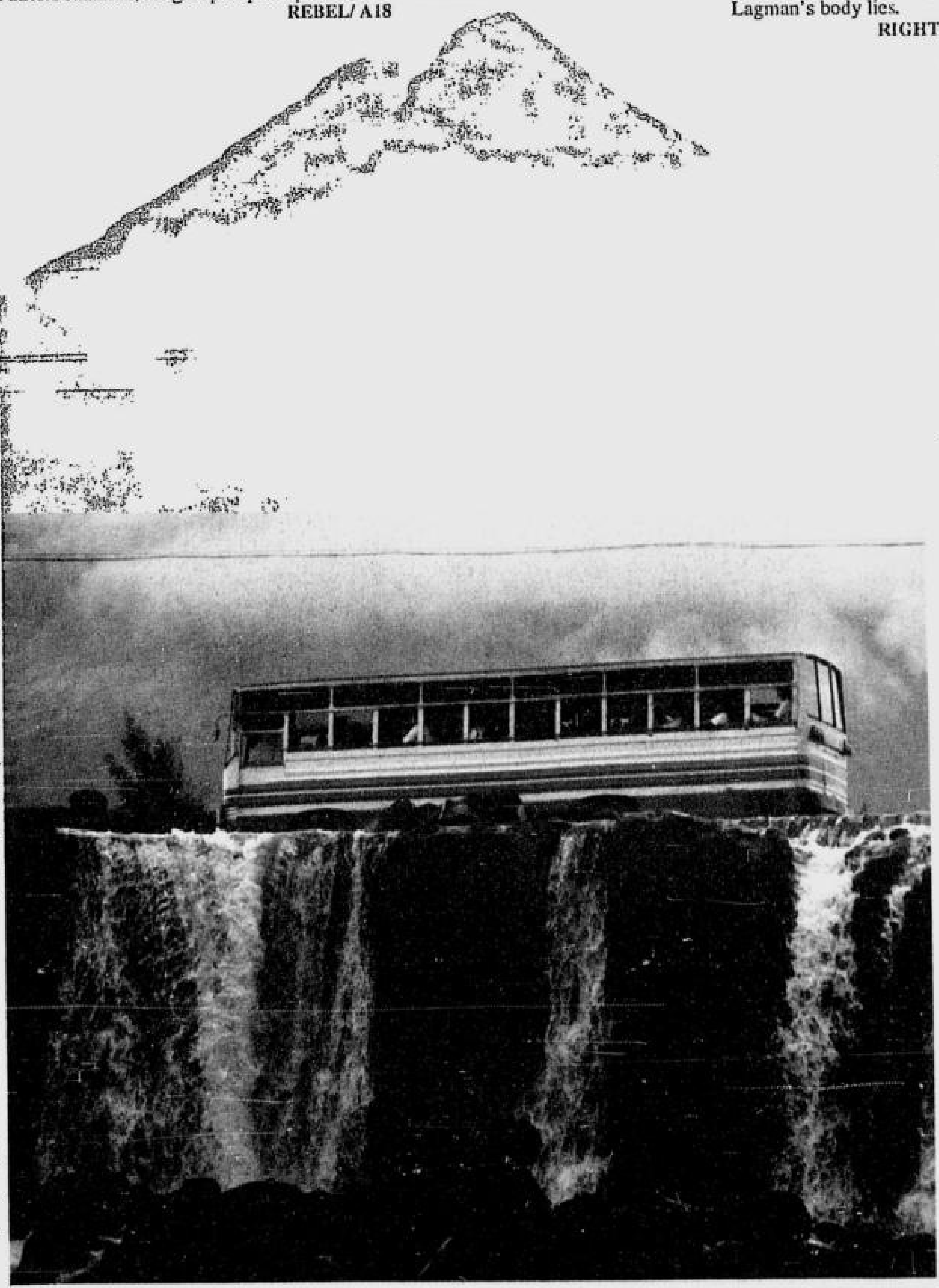
Militant groups also believe that Lagman's death was part of a destabilization campaign pulled off by allies of the deposed President.

"The extremely professional manner by which the assassination was carried out points to the clear motive of destabilizing the two-week-old government," Walden Bello, chair of the party list group Akbayan, said in a press conference at the UP Chapel where Lagman's body lies.

RIGHTISTS/ A18



HOW Popoy Lagman fell is reenacted yesterday by the stairway of the Bahay ng Alumni at UP, Diliman, where two gunmen pumped four bullets into the labor leader's head on Tuesday. JOAN BONDOC



MAJESTIC EDWIN BACASMAS

Nature at its best between a waterfall and a mist-shrouded Mayon Volcano in Sto. Domingo, Albay.

Perez, 82 groups want ₱20-B Erap assets seized

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando B. Perez yesterday led private prosecutors and 82 groups in seeking the forfeiture of P20 billion worth of bank assets and mansions allegedly belonging to ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Perez, who helped prepare the forfeiture case that he and the anti-Estrada groups filed with the Office of the Ombudsman, said half of the P20 billion represented money stashed in secret bank accounts and the rest was prime real estate.

"We are asking that the deposits be frozen . . . We are also asking for the forfeiture of the properties so far known to the private complainants," the justice secretary said.

The complainants were mostly militant and Church groups that took part in Edsa People Power II that forced Estrada to step down on Jan. 20 and swept Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to the presidency.

"Estrada's ouster is not the end. There should be justice for the Filipino people and that means he should be prosecuted and jailed," said Rafael Mariano, head of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas and one of the complainants.

Outside the office of Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, 50 demonstrators urged him to hasten its investigation of six charges—plunder, misuse of funds, graft, perjury, bribery and ill-gotten wealth—filed against Estrada.

Estrada on Monday asked the

PEREZ/ A18

KEY POSTS

Cabinet: 'Charge of Ramos brigade'

BY JERRY ESPLANADA

"CHARGE of the old brigade" is how Argee Guevarra, counsel of the left-wing umbrella group Sanlakas, describes the new Cabinet of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

A former House prosecutor in the impeachment trial of disgraced President Joseph Estrada also observed that the new administration was staffed by "recycled Ramos boys."

SPECIAL REPORT

"It's the Ramos administration all over again," charged the prosecutor, who asked not to be named.

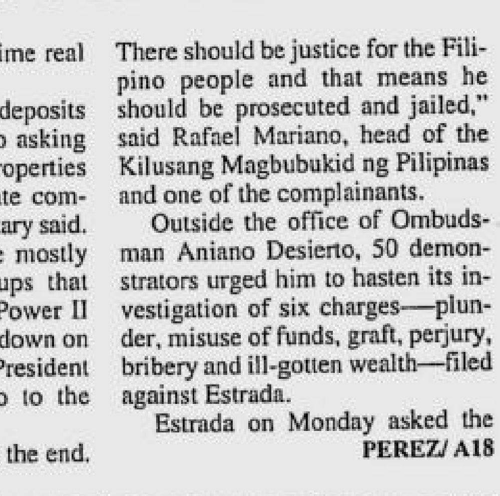
Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr., too, has warned against the apparently strong influence of former President Fidel Ramos in terms of Ms Macapagal's key appointments.

Ramos, however, has shrugged off persistent reports that he is the power behind the new President's throne.

Pimentel warned President Macapagal against "repeating Erap's mistakes" by "allowing people of dubious character and motives to exert influence on Malacañang."

He issued the warning after running into what he called many "unwanted people" who trooped to Ms Macapagal's

CABINET/ A5


BUKSAN BUKSAN
YES!
YES!
GO GO!

Now it's pro-Erap senators who insist on opening envelope

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

WHAT is this, a case of the shoe now on the other foot?

The Senate yesterday approved Resolution No. 927, which allows for the possible opening of the controversial second envelope said to contain damaging evidence against ousted President Joseph Estrada.

NOW/ A19

ANO PANG GINAGAWA NIYA D'YAN?!

Congress OKs Fair Election Act

WITH the election campaign kicking off this month, candidates will have the equal opportunity not only to be known to voters but also to reply to attacks by their opponents.

This after the Senate and the House of Representatives ratified last night the Fair Election Act, which not only promotes fair electoral practices but also lifts the ban on political advertising. The House ratified it late last night by a vote of 199 to 3.

The measure, if enacted into law by President Macapagal-Arroyo, takes effect within two days.

Sen. Raul Roco, Senate chair of the bicameral committee that deliberated on the measure, said the measure "not only equalizes opportunity to be known, but it even gives the candidates the opportunity to answer back."

He said that one of the problems of candidates is that when they are attacked in print or in broadcast, their replies tend to be "buried" or "not carried at all."

"Under the Fair Elections Act, that right to reply is ensured as we equalize opportunity to be published and as we subsidize and lower the rates for political advertisements," Roco added.

Roco said that any elected official who runs for any other position will no longer have to forfeit his current position as practiced before.

"For example, if Rep. Joker Arroyo runs for the Senate, and if this is already a law, he is no longer deemed resigned (from the House)," the senator noted.

More solons seek ouster of BSP head

By Martin P. Marfil

BANGKO Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura was never confirmed by the Commission on Appointments as required, hence his stay at the post was questionable, Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno claimed yesterday.

"He was not confirmed so he is not actually the BSP governor as he has not been legally appointed," Moreno said.

Moreno and Makati Rep. Joker Arroyo earlier called for Buenaventura's resignation after it was learned that deposed President Joseph Estrada took out more than P143 million from Urban Bank the day before it closed.

They accused Buenaventura of having given Estrada "undue advantage" by tipping him off about Urban Bank's troubled finances, allowing the ousted president to withdraw funds on April 24.

Other lawmakers yesterday joined the call for Buenaventura's resignation as speculations that he could have tipped off Estrada grew.

Very disappointing

In Malacañang, Presidential Spokesperson Renato Corona said the BSP should investigate Estrada's withdrawal of P143 million from Urban Bank

"If that is true, that is very disappointing it will cause more people to be angry at Estrada," Corona said.

The president of the Economic Intelligence Unit think-tank, Peter Wallace, said President Macapagal-Arroyo would be faced with a tough choice in deciding the fate of Buenaventura.

Wallace said the foreign business community would want Ms Macapagal to retain Buenaventura to maintain stability in the economy.

"Changing him at this critical point is not advisable. The government should establish the independence of the BSP in order to boost investor confidence," Wallace said.

Various groups have been pressing for Buenaventura's replacement. Ms Macapagal's chief economic official, Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo, is known to want to replace Buenaventura who has a fixed term until 2005.

"It is unfortunate that this exists. It would be better that Secretary Romulo and Governor Buenaventura should settle their differences for the good of the country," said Wallace.

'I won't resign'

The center of the brewing controversy yesterday stubbornly stood his ground. "I do not intend to resign," said Buenaventura.

He pointed to Urban Bank officials as the likely culprits. "If it was true that the former president was able to withdraw, then the persons who should be made to explain why he was able to withdraw one day before Urban Bank closed are the bank's senior management such as its chair, Arsenio Bartolome III, and the president, Teodoro Borlongan," Buenaventura said.

Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. president Norberto Nazareno supported Buenaventura's contention.

Nazareno said that Bartolome had gone to Malacañang on April 24 to ask Estrada to allow the Social Security System to be Urban's "white knight."

"Bartolome could have tipped off Estrada when he went to Malacañang," said Nazareno.

Negative signals

The PDIC chief said forcing Buenaventura to resign would only send negative signals to the financial markets.

"It won't be good for our country if the banking system is influenced by political events. He (Buenaventura) is not being stubborn," said Nazareno.

Moreno revealed yesterday that the two Urban Bank manager's checks allegedly issued at the request of Estrada had been cleared in only a "few hours" when the process would normally have taken three days.

Buenaventura said earlier in his defense that he did know who the depositors of Urban Bank were and that he learned of the bank's closure only on April 25, the day it closed down.

"That is a blatant lie. It's his duty to inform the President . . . For him not to inform the President about the problems of Urban Bank would have been a disservice . . ." Moreno said.

The congressman said that he had been informed that Buenaventura was in Malacañang on April 24 and that Buenaventura—together with former trade secretary Jose Pardo—had discussions with Urban Bank officials before it closed down.

"I want him to tell the nation where he was on April 24. Was he in Malacañang? I want him to tell the nation if he and Pardo discussed the matter (of closure) with Urban Bank officials before it closed down," Moreno demanded.

Yesterday, three other congressmen joined the call for Buenaventura's resignation.

House Speaker Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte Jr said Buenaventura should at least have submitted a courtesy resignation.

"I personally believe he should have (done that) because it isn't just his professional competence that was his best qualification, it was his having been a member of that high school class of President Estrada along with so many other people . . who got their jobs principally because of that," he added.

Abu leader says Aventajado got much of ransom

KUALA LUMPUR—A senior official of a Filipino group which staged two kidnappings in Malaysia has claimed that Manila negotiators pocketed much of the ransom for the captives, a report said Wednesday.

Abu Abdel Aziz, secretary general of the Abu Sayyaf group, made the claim in an interview with Malaysia's Bernama news agency.

"There is a need for an investigation of the negotiators and their cronies involved in pocketing the ransom money," he said in the interview conducted recently in Kota Kinabalu in the Malaysian state of Sabah.

Abu Sayyaf gunmen seized nine Malaysians and 12 foreigners from Sipadan Island on April 23 last year and another three Malaysians from Pandanan Island on Sept. 10.

They were taken by boat to Jolo.

Apart from one Filipino all those hostages have escaped or been freed, with some released after the payment of millions of dollars by various quarters.

Abdel Aziz claimed the two leaders who staged the kidnappings, "Commander Robot" and Mujib Susukan, did not initially demand ransom but that chief government negotiator Robert Aventajado persuaded them to switch their political demands to money.

"Robert Aventajado raised the monetary demands with the knowledge that the Philippine government would not bow to the political demands especially that relating to the Islamic state," said Abdel Aziz, maintaining that as secretary general he is Abu Sayyaf's supreme leader.

The Abu Sayyaf called for an Islamic state in Mindanao and a commission to investigate alleged abuses against Filipino immigrants in Sabah.

But analysts at the time said the gunmen's motivation appeared mainly to be money.

Aventajado and other negotiators have previously strongly denied that they skimmed off any ransom. *AFP*

Sirven back in France

PARIS—French former oil executive Alfred Sirven, wanted in connection with a multimillion-dollar network of corruption at the oil group Elf, was extradited Tuesday to France where his testimony is awaited with nervous excitement by the political establishment.

Sirven, 74, who was arrested last week in the Philippines after four years on the run and flown to Germany, was handed over to French police at Frankfurt airport and taken by plane to a military airport outside Paris.

He was to be driven to the financial unit of the law courts in Paris for a short interview, and then to the Sante prison where he has been assured a private cell in a corridor reserved for suspects in high-profile corruption cases.

Earlier in Germany, Sirven had refused to answer questions from a German parliamentary committee about a funding scandal at the CDU party of former chancellor Helmut Kohl. *AFP*

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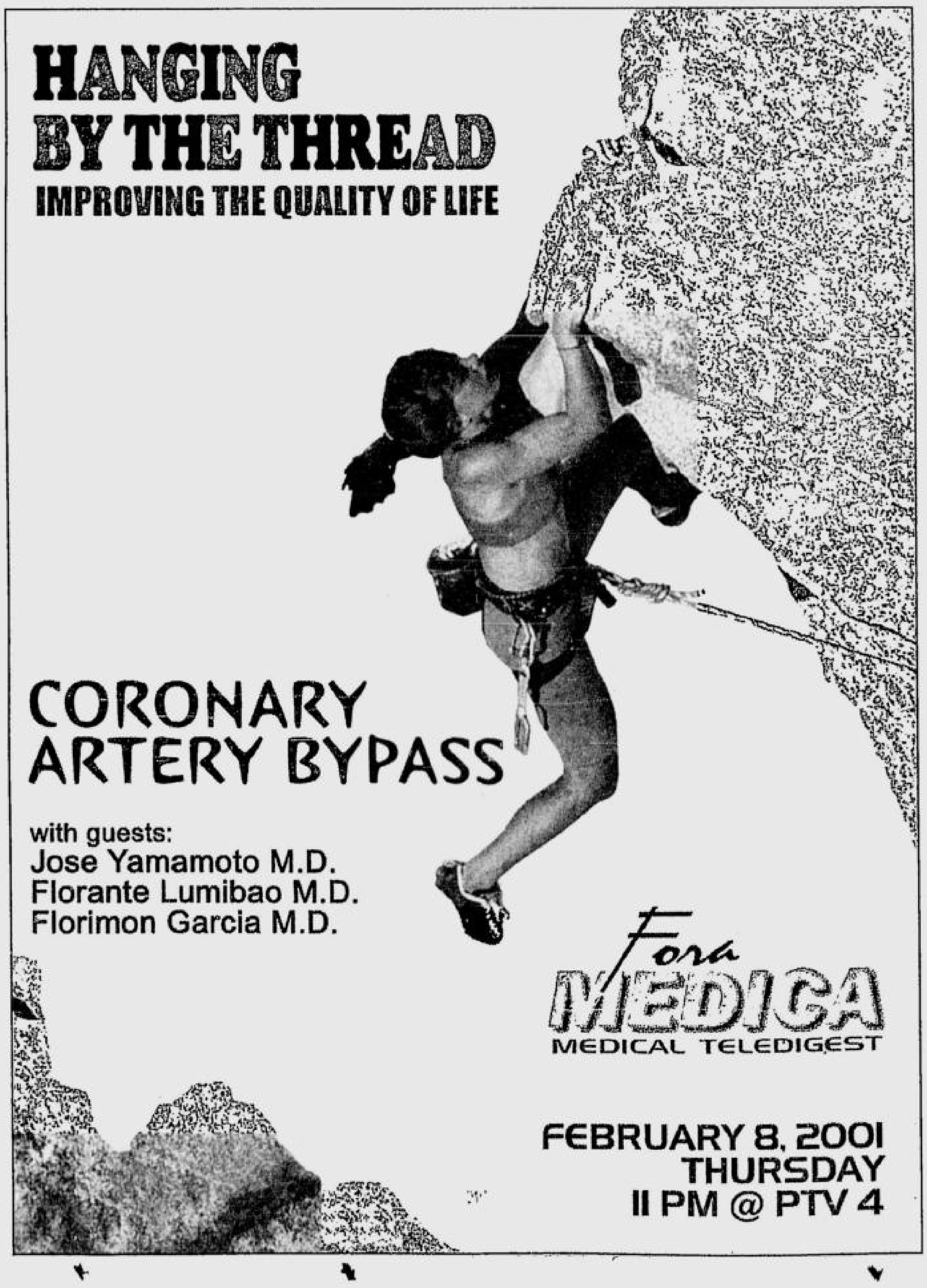

Ping joins LDP, seeks Senate seat

By Cynthia D. Balana

FORMER Philippine National Police chief Panfilo Lacson is the newest addition to the senatorial slate of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino.

Lacson was sworn in yesterday as a member of LDP during the party's national executive committee meeting at the Manila Hotel where some 200 members met to trim their list of senatorial candidates from 17 to eight.

The party was hard-pressed to come up with a formidable 12-man slate for the May 14 senatorial polls.

This much was admitted by Edgardo Angara, Laban chair, who said the party was looking into the possibility of joining forces with "like-minded parties," such as the Nationalist People's Coalition of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco and the Partido ng Masang Pilipino of former president Joseph Estrada.

Angara stressed, however, that any alliance with these parties was for election purposes only.

He said their former coalition, the Lapian ng Masang Pilipino, was dead because "it had served its purpose."

"Laban is one of the most organized political parties and I am grateful that (it) has accepted my membership," ex-top cop Lacson said.

Lacson resigned as PNP chief after his patron and friend, Joseph Estrada, was driven from office in the People Power II uprising last month.

"I hope to contribute my ideas to the party in the near future," he added.

Being new in politics, Lacson said he needs to improve his image to gain public acceptance.

Lacson's career in law enforcement was marked by controversy, from its start during the martial law regime up to the time of Estrada who promoted him to the highest position in the police force.

Lacson said, however, he was "very confident" that he would win in the May polls. "I'm confident that I'll win, otherwise I would not be here."

Laban members said Lacson was a welcome addition to the party, just like former press secretary Ricardo "Dong" Puno who also made it to the official senatorial slate.

Revilla rejoins Lakas, says he's no turncoat

By Juliet L. Javellana

SEN. Ramon Revilla yesterday re-joined the administration party Lakas, weeks after he bolted the erstwhile administration LAMP coalition, saying he wanted to retain his post as chair of the Senate committee on public works.

He said his son-in-law, Sen. Robert Jaworski, will follow suit. "That's a certainty," he said. Revilla and Jaworski were two of the 11 senators who voted to suppress the envelope containing the key evidence against former President Joseph Estrada during his impeachment trial last month.

The two had bolted Lakas when the impeachment trial started in December, saying they wanted to sit as independent judges in the proceedings. However, they were identified with the Estrada camp during the whole proceedings, which abruptly ended on July 6 with the fateful vote that triggered mass protests on Edsa that culminated in the ouster of the President four days later.

Revilla said he is not a turncoat. He said he merely wanted to assure the passage of the P250-billion Public Works Act II in the Senate.

The bill is up for approval today, last day of the session.

Revilla, took his oath as Lakas member before Senate Minority Leader Teofisto Guingona Jr. hours before the latter was proclaimed Vice President.

"I used to be a Lakas member. I am just coming back to protect my chairmanship of the committee on public works," Revilla told reporters.

Revilla, a last-term senator, said he was with Lakas since 1992 but became an independent in 1998, when he joined the coalition of Estrada.

There was no reorganization in the Senate, which would have justified Revilla's decision.

Guingona had passed around a resolution for a reorganization last week but failed to get enough signatures. He said yesterday there was no time for such a revamp.

Revilla explained that Public Works Act II was to be the "fulfillment of the dreams of the people even in the remotest parts of our country."

Revilla said the implementation of the various infrastructure projects would create jobs and help pump-prime the economy.

Public Works Act I was signed into law by President Ramos in 1995 but by 1999, when the law lapsed, only 65 percent of the P130 billion project was funded.

The second act amounts to P170 billion to P250 billion.

REVILLA

Joecon threatens impeachment rap vs Comelec exec

FORMER Trade Secretary Jose Concepcion yesterday said he would file an impeachment complaint against commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco of the Commission on Elections if she continues to delay the resolution of the National Movement for Free Elections' application for a quick count in the May 14 elections.

Concepcion, Namfrel chair, said their lawyers were poised to file an impeachment complaint against Tancangco before the House of Representatives if she fails to issue her opinion on the quick count operations within this week.

Tancangco, as commissioner of a constitutional body, has a fixed term of seven years and can only be removed by impeachment.

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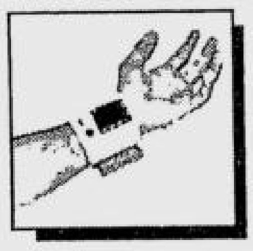

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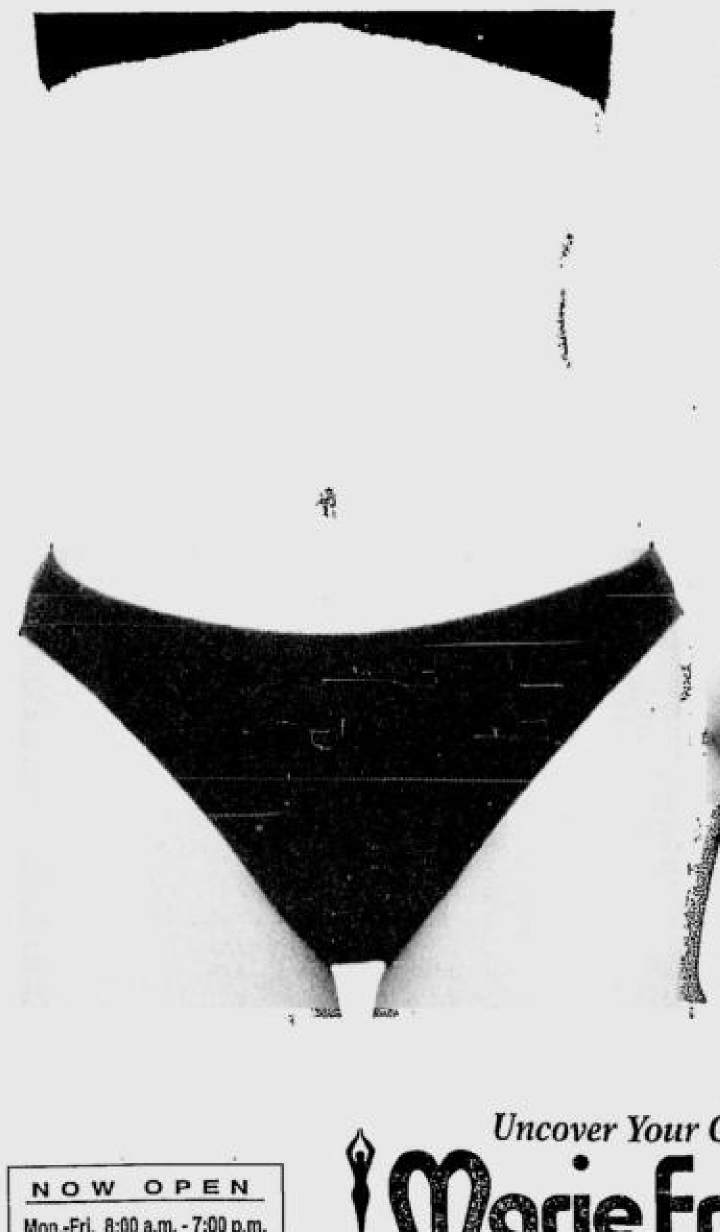
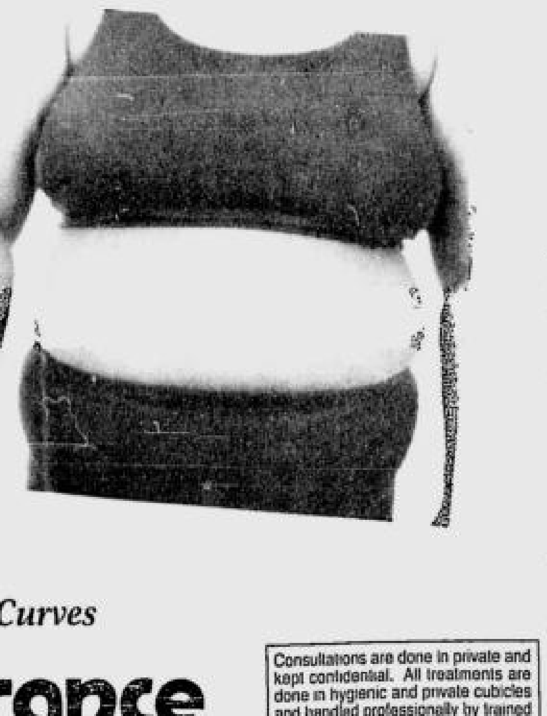

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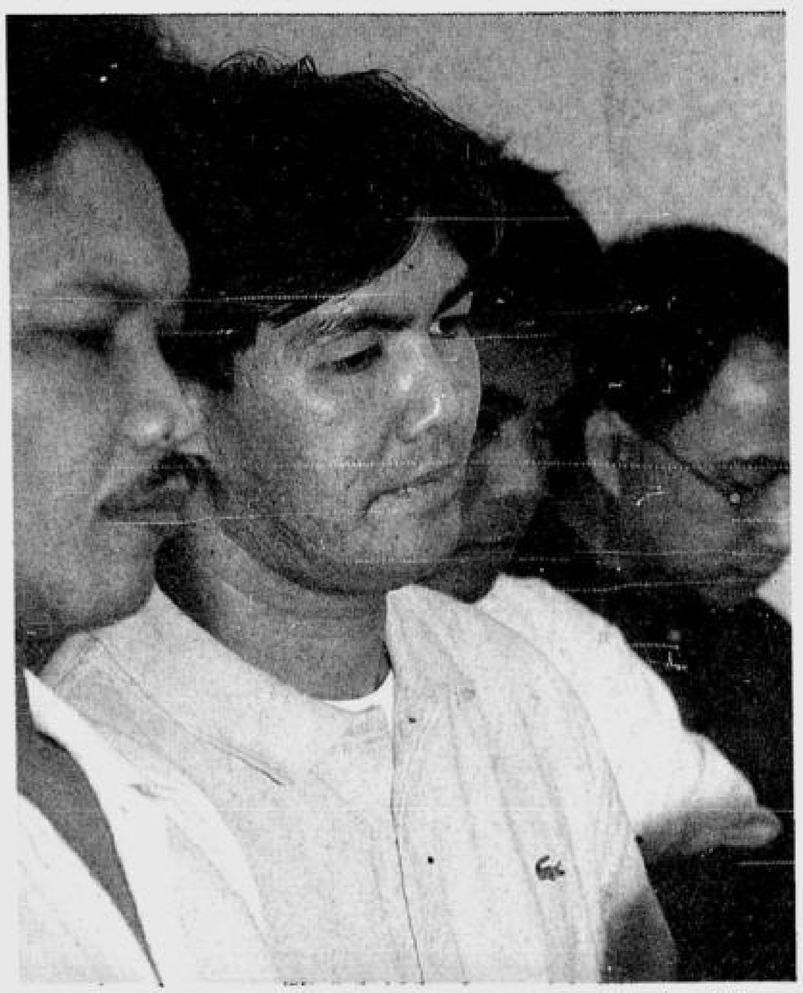
Yap brothers get life for murder



REY Yap, mayor of Sapang Dalaga, Misamis Occidenta (center), and his co-accused listen to the verdict. ERIK ARAZAS

Court finds Misamis mayor, 3 others guilty of rival's slay

By Jerome Aning

A MANILA judge yesterday meted out life terms to a former Mindanao town mayor, his brother and two other men for the murder of a political rival in Zamboanga de Norte nine years ago.

In a 35-page decision, Judge Rodolfo Ponferrada of Regional Trial Court Branch 41 found the principal accused, Rey Yap, Sapang Dalaga, Misamis Occidental mayor, and his younger brother, Roy, guilty of masterminding the assassination of Mayor Victorio Cebedo of Rizal, Zamboanga del Norte, on April 29, 1992.

The others sentenced to life were the triggerman, Juditho Cara, and lookout Joselito Lacuña.

Two former policemen who tried to help the gunmen escape—SPO4 Hilario Delgado and PO2 Nestor Mananquil—were found guilty as accessories and given six to 12 years in jail. Delgado, however, died of cancer a few years ago but his death was not officially reported to the court.

Another lookout, Narciso Bulay-og, and the Yap brothers' agent, Eduvigio Delgado, are still at large.

Cebedo, a candidate of the Nationalist People's Coalition, was shot and killed during a rally in Barangay Birayan, Rizal town two weeks before the May 1992 elections.

The victim and Roy Yap were contesting the Rizal mayoralty race.

Cebedo's brother, Perfecto, ran in his place after the assassination and won. He is on his last term as mayor of Rizal.

After hearing the verdict, the Yaps were silent but they appeared to be holding back tears.

Perfecto, who had stayed outside the packed courtroom, exchanged glares with the Yaps as the brothers were being escorted out after the sentencing.

"We are happy and relieved because after nine long years, justice was finally served," Perfecto told reporters.

The court relied mainly on the judicial confession of Cara backed by corroborating testimony.

Cara confessed shortly after joining a Christian group in jail. He said he wanted to "save his soul" and could no longer stand the guilt and remorse he felt since shooting Cebedo.

Cara, a professional hitman, said that four days before the killing, his cousin, Eduvigio Delgado, told him the Yap brothers wanted to hire him to kill Cebedo for P50,000.

Judge Ponferrada gave weight and credence to Cara's confession, describing it as "competent evidence" that the defense's denials and alibis could not overcome.

The defense had claimed Cara was insane.

For 40 years, the Yap family has dominated politics in the western Misamis Occidental towns of Sapang Dalaga and Balingao.

Clan members have served as mayors, vice mayors and provincial officers.

In the 1990s, they tried to extend their sphere of influence to neighboring towns in western Zamboanga del Norte—Libertad, Sibutad and Rizal.

The murder case was originally filed in a Dipolog City court but the trial was moved to Manila to ensure its impartiality.

The trial dragged on for years because of numerous appeals filed by the Yaps' lawyers.

Ponferrada was the ninth judge to hear the case. Previous judges either inhibited themselves or retired.

Amado Cortez asks Palace to pay hospital expenses in SF

By Dona Pazzibugan

OUTGOING consul general to San Francisco, California, Amado Cortez had asked the Office of the President to pay his hospital bills amounting to at least $100,000 since he could not pay it himself, diplomatic sources said.

Cortez, 72, is said to be suffering from tuberculosis and serious ailments of the heart, lung and kidney.

The former movie actor was among the 22 political appointees of ousted President Joseph Estrada whom President Macapagal-Arroyo recalled two weeks ago.

They were supposed to return within 60 days.

But sources said Cortez had asked the Department of Foreign Affairs to let him stay on due to his unpaid hospital bills.

His insurance coverage as a diplomat was apparently not enough to cover his hospital bills.

Sources said Cortez asked the Department of Foreign Affairs to pay his hospital bills.

But the DFA reportedly turned down his request due to budgetary constraints and instead passed Cortez's request to Malacañang last week.

'Very sick man'

The Office of the President had so far not given a response.

Former Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon Jr. had asked Estrada to recall Cortez, whom Siazon described as a "very sick man."

Siazon quoted the report of the San Francisco public health department that Cortez had a "serious heart condition, pulmonary problems, and kidney failure" apart from his active tuberculosis.

"In view of Mr. Cortez's present health condition and his physical difficulties with respect to the performance of his duties, I am constrained to recommend his retirement as soon as possible," Siazon said in his urgent memo dated Nov. 21, 2000.

But Estrada did not act on Siazon's request.

Although Siazon recommended Cortez's recall in November, the DFA had months earlier received complaints from the Filipino community in San Francisco months about Cortez's serious medical condition and alleged wrongdoings.

Infected

In early October, the DFA received reports that some staff members of the Philippine consulate in San Francisco have been infected by Cortez with his tuberculosis.

Cortez reportedly had been on an extended sick leave since Oct. 1.

But Cortez tried to downplay the seriousness of his ailments.

Diplomatic sources said Cortez could be holding on to his post so he can continue to avail of the medical benefits awarded to diplomats.

Judging from his condition, sources said, Cortez was already ill two years ago when he assumed office.

Apart from the issue of his health, Cortez was also accused by the Filipino community in San Francisco that he and his family have used government funds and property for their personal use.

Cortez was accused of allowing his son-in-law to use his official residence for his private business and allowing his children and their families to live there.

He was also accused of letting funds of the Philippine Center for Management Board (PCMB) to be used by a private organization headed by his wife, actress Gloria Sevilla.

Cortez has denied all the accusations.

Imelda sues Cory, et al. for rights violations

By Volt Contreras

SAYING she was emboldened by the "healing" presidency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the widow of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos complained yesterday to the Commission on Human Rights that her family was the "real victim" of rights violations from the time they were driven out of Malacañang in 1986.

In a seven-page "Magnum Opus Complaint" filed at the CHR office in Quezon City, Imelda Marcos recalled how her family was fooled into thinking that the Aquino and US governments had arranged for their flight to "Paoay" (Ilocos Norte). It turned out, she said, they were being taken to a place that only rhymed—Hawaii.

The 71-year-old widow of Ferdinand Marcos also declared in her statement:

"In our long, relentless crusade for truth and justice to prevail, it was our commitment to implement the legacy of President Ferdinand E. Marcos, whose assets through the Marcos Foundation will benefit and improve the quality of life of the Filipino people.

"With the new Macapagal government which has articulated its policy of 'healing and building,' I am positive all our efforts will now prosper and succeed.

"I am therefore filing this magnum opus complaint . . . to surface the truth (sic) that the Marcoses were the victims of human rights violations."

And like recently ousted president Joseph Estrada, Marcos argued that her husband was still the duly elected president of the Philippines even after he had left Malacañang and gone into exile in Hawaii.

This was based on the premise that Marcos, like Estrada, did not resign his office but merely gave it up "temporarily" due to extenuating circumstances.

A CHR official could not contain what he felt about Ms Marcos' complaint. "It gives me goose bumps," said Commissioner Nasser Marohomsalic.

Named respondents in the complaint were former presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos, former Senate president Jovito Salonga and his son, Esteban, Aquino's executive secretary and now Makati City Rep. Joker Arroyo, former Tarlac Gov. Margarita "Ting-Ting" Cojuangco, Potenciano Roque, Dr. Angelita Reyes and the members of the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

The complaint cited the respondents' individual roles in the "litany of human rights abuses (committed) by the Aquino government and succeeding administrations."

These include the alleged connivance between Aquino and US government agents to "kidnap" the Marcoses and fly them to Hawaii.

Because of the element of deceit regarding their true destination, Marcos insisted the whole episode was tantamount to a "kidnapping."

Defending Erap gets tougher for Saguisag

By Alcuin Papa

THE JOB of defending ousted President Joseph Estrada just got tougher.

Yesterday, two lawyers groups lambasted high-profile crusading lawyer Rene Saguisag for taking in Estrada as a client to question the legitimacy of the Macapagal-Arroyo presidency.

In a statement to media, the Concerned Lawyers for Moral and Effective Leadership or Clamor said Saguisag only wants to "establish a landmark case."

"Saguisag only wants a jurisprudence that will be studied by future law students. In other words, he wants a Supreme Court decision on this for scholastic and academic reasons and not because he wants Estrada to return to Malacañang," said Clamor head convenor Dennis Funa.

Saguisag's acceptance of the job of lawyering for the former president belied reports that no lawyer wanted to take up the cudgels for Estrada. His defense team at his recent impeachment trial had declined to continue representing him purportedly because of "heavy" workloads.

JV's reaction

Estrada's son, JV Ejercito, said yesterday: "The news that President Estrada was having a hard time getting a lawyer's is false, cruel and malicious."

Ejercito was reacting to reports that his father has not answered charges against him before the Ombudsman because he has no lawyers.

On the contrary, Ejercito said, Estrada has a competent and dedicated legal team to continue with his defense against charges of plunder and violations of the Anti-Graft Law.

"We have been receiving visits and phone calls from lawyers and other legal experts volunteering their services to defend President Estrada in court," Ejercito said, adding these lawyers have offered their services for free.

Saguisag, Funa pointed out, is a professor of political law. While a decision on the issue would "enrich our legal jurisprudence," he said, "it would give future generations a chance to see how a corrupt president was removed from office."

'Look foolish'

Funa said Saguisag's action has made "Estrada look foolish." "Because of this challenge to the presidency of Macapagal, Estrada is seen either as a deluded man who still thinks he is president, or a man out to destabilize the government and sabotage the economic recovery."

The group said the chances of the Supreme Court sustaining Estrada's claim to the presidency would be equal to his present popularity rating which is negative.

In another statement, the Filipino Lawyers for Good Governance, or Filgood, rebuked Saguisag for accepting his controversial client.

Rick Abcede, Filgood national chair, said that at its last monthly meeting, the group passed a resolution condemning Saguisag "for giving the law profession a bad name."

He said Saguisag still had moral suasion among the populace, having served as spokesperson of Cory Aquino, as a senator and as chairman of Mabini, a lawyers group founded to fight the Marcos dictatorship.

"There is some moral dichotomy here, where a lawyer known for honesty and integrity deigns to defend someone with highly questionable moral standards," Abcede said. He added that Estrada can now use Saguisag as a "moral shield" against the people who are his accusers.

Pinoys still believe in democratic processes, says survey

By Agnes E. Donato

DESPITE the collapse of the impeachment trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada, Filipinos still believe in democratic processes and this is evident in the public's "excitement" about voting in the May elections, Pulse Asia said yesterday.

The Pulse Asia survey, which was conducted on Jan. 26, or six days after massive protests nationwide ousted Estrada, showed that 83 percent of the 346 respondents have registered for the coming elections.

Compared to the 75 percent who said they voted during the 1998 presidential elections, 85 percent were likely to vote in May, according to Pulse Asia president Felipe Miranda.

"With all this talk about the assassination of a labor leader and the so-called 'massacre in the bureaucracy' said to be happening lately, people might get the impression that Filipinos do not believe in the rule of law," Miranda said in the weekly Ciudad Fernandina forum.

"But surveys show that the interest of the public in the May elections is so great. This reflects that Filipinos still go for democratic processes," Miranda added.

He also said that 100 percent of the respondents filled out the questionnaires when they were given a list of senatoriables whom they might vote for, as against the 40 to 50 percent "fill-up rate" in the previous years.

He, however, called on both the Macapagal-Arroyo administration and the opposition to "collaborate in trying to get the people of this country to feel certain that indeed (the election) is a legitimate exercise."

"It is in the best interest of this country that this election be a truly credible one," said Miranda, warning against the possibility of "pocket people powers," if the election is in any way tainted with fraud.

"In much the same way that Edsa II had been propelled by the excitement of the public regarding what happened in the impeachment trial, I think it would not be good for this excitement about the elections to be frustrated in any sense," Miranda said.

Meanwhile, survey results also showed that an endorsement from former President Corazon Aquino was the factor that was likely to win a candidate a seat in government.

Twenty-eight percent of the respondents agreed that it would help a candidate if he or she is supported by Aquino, while 25 percent believed that whoever President Macapagal-Arroyo anointed would stand a bigger chance.

Curiously, El Shaddai founder Mike Velarde came next with 23 percent, while Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin placed fourth with 19 percent.

Miranda admitted that deposed President Joseph Estrada, who got the approval of 15 percent of the respondents, still held a political base, saying it was natural for former leaders to have some kind of influence on the electorate.

"As a matter of fact, even former President Marcos still has a political base. We can't do anything about that. But the question is whether that influence would be enough to have an impact on our political process to restore, for instance, the presidency of Estrada," Miranda explained.

The survey also showed that 64 percent of the respondents would vote for senatorial candidates regardless of their political party.

Miranda said this showed "independence" on the part of the public, even as he noted that this reflected the kind of political structure that the country has.

"We do not really have a political party in the strictest sense of the term, in which each party has a political program and exacts discipline from the people inside it," he said.

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NEWSBRIEFS

RP-wide cleanup drive

THE COUNTRY'S government workforce is joining the private sector in providing support to a national cleanup campaign to attract more tourists to the country. Civil Service Commission chair Corazon Alma de Leon recently signed an agreement with Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon and Philippine Jaycees president Jimmy T. Yaokasin Jr., enjoining the bureaucracy to embark on a similar cleanup program within their respective offices and immediate environs.

The voluntary work for cleaner surroundings is under the CSC's "Spirit of 100 Hours" which encourages government employees to render voluntary service harnessing their interests, talents and expertise. The CSC said it fully supports the tourism department's aim of inculcating upon every Filipino a lasting commitment to a "culture of tourism" through volunteerism.

Davide, Roco feted today

ON THE OCCASION of the first anniversary of Bantay Katarungan today, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. will receive the Award of Excellence and Sen. Raul Roco the Award of Merit for their exceptional performance during the Senate impeachment trial. Former Senate President Jovito Salonga, adviser and founder of Bantay Katarungan (Sentinel of Justice), said the Awards will be given at 4 p.m. at the Club Filipino.

President Macapagal-Arroyo will be the guest of honor and speaker. She will be introduced by former Secretary of Justice Sedfrey Ordoñez, chair of the organization. She is expected to speak on Ethical Conduct and Public Accountability.

Journalism award deadline

THE DEADLINE for submission of nominations to the 2000 Search for Outstanding Journalists (SOJ) has been extended from Jan. 30 to March 15, according to Metrobank Foundation Inc. and the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC).

Crispin Maslog, AIJC senior vice president and SOJ national coordinator, said the move to extend the deadline was made by the sponsors in response to numerous appeals from various media and private sector organizations and individuals. The new deadline will give more time to various stakeholders to send in their nominations for the three categories—Outstanding Journalist for Print, Outstanding Journalist for Broadcast and Distinguished Leadership in Journalism.

Veterans hail new Cabinet

THE VETERANS Federation Party-List organization (VFP) has expressed support for the recent cabinet appointments of veterans by President Macapagal-Arroyo, herself the daughter of a distinguished World War II veteran.

In a press statement, Rep. Eduardo P. Pilapil, the party-list congressman for veterans said the support of former President Fidel Ramos, himself a veteran, for the Macapagal-Arroyo administration augurs well for the country, especially in terms of attracting new foreign investments and strengthening economic and other relationships with other countries.

Women on 100-day agenda

VARIOUS women's groups called Women TEAM have banded together to initiate a civil society conference tackling the 100-day agenda of the Macapagal administration. Organizers of the "Diwa ng Edsa: Pagkakaisa," conference plan to invite the veterans of the People Power II to a one-day forum to listen to newly appointed cabinet secretaries and help them effectively secure popular support for their initiatives.

Tetchi Capellan, URDUJA president and one of the convenors of the conference, said the group is requesting Cabinet members to present the highlights of the 100-day agenda. During the presentations, the organizers expect the secretaries in various departments to provide concrete action plans that are "doable" in the first 100 days. "We view this as some sort of a confidence building measure between government and civil society," she said.

Education a priority—Roces

PRIORITY should be given to education and health if the Philippines wants to move forward and regain its former glory, according to Dr. Alejandro Roces, a multi-awarded writer and former secretary of education. In a brief lecture before members of the Foundation for Upgrading the Standard of Education (FUSE) recently, Roces said there was a time when the Philippines always ranked next to Japan in terms of development.

"Now, we're still second—second only to Bangladesh among the poorest countries in Asia," he lamented.

He attributes the decline to the realignment of the education budget to defense, particularly during the 22-year martial rule under the late President Ferdinand Marcos. FUSE Vice Chair Lucio Tan said the obvious decline in Philippine education standards is the primary reason why FUSE exists. "Our main purpose is to help develop science and math. But we can only do this if we develop English," he said.

Cabinet: 'Charge of Ramos brigade'

(From page A1)

room at the Linden Suites in Pasig City shortly before she took her oath as President on Jan. 20.

The new Cabinet is "composed of old politicians, young *trapos* (traditional politicians) using civil society and celebrities as mere decorations. It's a *trapo* takeover," said a dismayed Guevarra, whose group Sanlakas called for the resignation of all elected officials after Estrada was impeached by the House of Representatives late last year.

Many of the Cabinet members named so far are either former officials or proteges of Ramos. President Macapagal-Arroyo is the titular head of Lakas-NUCD, Ramos' political party when he assumed the presidency in 1992.

Old faces

Ms Macapagal's closest aides, Executive Secretary Renato de Villa and her chief of staff and spokesperson, lawyer Renato Corona, are both known "Ramos boys."

De Villa served as defense secretary under the Ramos administration while Corona is a former legal adviser of the former president.

Former Batangas Rep. Eduardo Ermita, the Ramos administration's negotiator with the secessionist Moro National Liberation Front is the new national security adviser.

New Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin is a former DBM undersecretary. Businessman Paul Dominguez, ex-presidential assistant for Mindanao affairs, is now presidential assistant for regional development and special envoy to Brunei, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Jesus Dureza, acting chair of the Mindanao Economic Development Council and presidential assistant for Southeastern Mindanao, was presidential assistant for Mindanao under Ramos.

Like Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, a former Batangas legislator, the new secretary of public works, Rep. Simeon Datumanong of Maguindanao, is a stalwart of Lakas-NUCD.

Gravitating

Like the "Ramos boys," De Villa's Reporma party "gravitated toward the President" when it became clear that Estrada was on the way out, said another member of the House team of prosecutors.

De Villa, said the congressman, was responsible for the appointments of Jose Mari Gerochi as acting environment secretary, Rep. Pantaleon Alvarez (Reporma, Davao del Norte) as transportation secretary, and Gen. Leandro Mendoza as acting chief of the Philippine National Police, among others.

De Villa "had no hand in People Power II and in the impeachment process. He has no inkling at all on governance . . . What did (Tourism Secretary) Dick Gordon do during the impeachment trial? Nothing. Mar Roxas as trade secretary? Why recycle him? Was he exceptional during the Estrada administration?" the source lamented.

The congressman also called the appointment of Vicky Garchitorena of the Ayala Group as head of the Presidential Management Staff a "concession to the influential Makati Business Club."

'Utang na loob'

Corona admitted that *utang na loob* (a debt of gratitude) was among the factors considered in the appointment of the new officials.

"Whom do you get in the Cabinet if not those who shared your principles and values and helped you from the very start?" he argued.

Corona has taken up the cudgels for De Villa, saying the new "Little President" is "well qualified for the job." De Villa's stint might only be an "interim assignment" should he decide to run for the Senate in the May elections, according to Corona.

Former Speaker Jose de Venecia, Lakas national chair, believes Ms Macapagal "has done extremely well under the circumstances. You couldn't expect more."

De Venecia, Ms Macapagal's running mate in the 1998 elections, claimed he had "no ambition to join (the Cabinet). *Taga-timpla lang ng kape* . . . I'm just helping out."

Another Lakas stalwart, Manuel Morato, said there was "nothing wrong with tapping capable people from the Ramos administration. Some of the best and brightest in government service came from that administration. They've proven themselves and in the present situation, you can't experiment."

1000 applications

Newly appointed Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas heads Malacañang's "search committee."

In an interview, Sto. Tomas disclosed that the five-member panel had processed more than 1,000 applications and recommendations.

"As early as October, we were asked by then Vice President (Macapagal) to help in the constitutional transition committee . . . we were asked to do a 100-day plan in case something happens and form a search committee," she said.

The other members of the panel are Aniceto Sobrepeña, Metrobank senior vice president and former PMS head; Karen Abella, ex-president of the Development Academy of the Philippines; former Public Works Secretary Fiorello Estuar; and Tina Abad, director of the Ateneo school for governance.

Batting average

Of the 22 available Cabinet positions, the panel's endorsements were followed in only seven cases, Sto.Tomas said. These were: Boncodin; Roxas; Dante Canlas, director general of the National Economic Development Authority; Corazon Soliman, social welfare secretary; Teresita Quintos-Deles, chair of the National Anti-Poverty Commission; Felimon Uriarte, science and technology secretary; and Vitaliano Nañagas II, president of the Social Security System.

"Honestly, we're happy about our batting average. At first, we were disheartened. But later on, we realized we were not the selection committee, just the search committee. The selection committee is really a committee of one, and that's President (Macapagal)," Sto. Tomas told the INQUIRER.

The panel, she said, submitted lists of five recommendations per government post to Macapagal.

The President looked at the lists, then started considering other people for the post, Sto. Tomas said.

Not excited

"We were not thinking in terms of political persons. Our orientation was that no politician would be interested in the posts. Would you have thought Raul Roco would accept a post? You would not have thought of him at all," she said.

"But when the President took a look at our list and didn't seem all that excited about it, she called him up and said, would you be willing to join the Cabinet? And when he said that (he was interested in) DECS, *o sige*, DECS," she added.

Now that the panel has classified all the applications and nominations by department, Macapagal has directed Cabinet secretaries to identify vacant posts, "give us three names and she will pick from those three," Sto. Tomas said.

"According to the President, secretaries must also be given a chance to pick their own teams," she said.

"Let's give President Macapagal a chance in terms of her choices. She recalled Gen. (Lisandro) Abadia, and Mendoza's appointment is being looked into," Sto. Tomas said.

"She knows how to listen," she added.

Rehash

Predictably, militant groups are sharpest in criticizing the new appointments.

Wilson Fortaleza, president of Sanlakas, one of the key partners in the broad movement that sought and eventually achieved Estrada's ouster said the new government still had "the old system of political accommodations . . , (it's) a rehash of old faces."

"Where's the new politics President Macapagal promised us during her oath-taking at the Edsa Shrine?" asked Fortaleza in a recent interview.

Bayan, another prominent leftist umbrella group, was not surprised about the "token appointees" of the new administration.

"We're not happy about (Ms Macapagal's choices). They cast doubts on the President's ability to deliver the political reforms she promised to the multitudes who brought her to power," said Bayan chair Teddy Casiño.

In a statement, the group Artista Para sa Pagbabago, composed of people from the entertainment industry, the arts and media, told the President: "Immediately after your oath-taking, in virtually every event you have attended, we see the specter of old traditional politics slithering around you."

The group also expressed dismay over what they perceived as the "unfair process of appointing people to key government positions."

Half a month after Estrada's ouster, "there are no indications yet of a departure from the past," complained Satur Ocampo, president of Bayan Muna.

Left not consulted

"We have yet to see a major reshuffle in the civilian and military establishments. Basically, the structure of government of the previous administration is still the same," Ocampo said in a phone interview.

He noted that the Left had "no role in the selection" of top government officials. Ocampo was earlier rumored to be a contender for the post of agrarian reform secretary.

All sectors should have been consulted, said Eufemio Domingo, chair of the defunct Presidential Commission Against Graft and Corruption.

"There are indications (Macapagal) is unprepared. What really is her program of government? Even with the major problem of graft and corruption in government, it seems she has no definite plan to go address it," added Domingo, a former chair of the Commission on Audit.

EX-MILITARY men, Executive Secretary Rene de Villa and Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita escort President Macapagal at Fort Bonifacio on Wednesday, her first visit as Commander in Chief. ROGER MARGALLO

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OPINION

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EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

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Accent on Mindanao

EDITORIAL

THE NOMINATION of Senate Minority Leader Teofisto Guingona as Vice President delivers the clear message that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has upgraded the priority of Mindanao on her administration's agenda of national economic recovery and restoring political stability.

Guingona is the first Vice President this country has had from Mindanao since 1961, when Emmanuel Pelaez served as the vice president of President Diosdado Macapagal. But the more important point is that Guingona's nomination underscores her Mindanao priority following the appointment of two Mindanao congressmen to the Cabinet: Maguindanao Rep. Simeon Datumanong as public works secretary, and Davao del Norte Rep. Pantaleon Alvarez as transportation and communication secretary. At the same time, she has appointed Paul Dominguez as her assistant for regional development. She has also designated Jesus Dureza, from Davao, to resume the stalled peace dialogue with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

In terms of regional balance in representation in the decision-making of the central government, this is the first time that the Muslims (through Datumanong) are represented in the Cabinet since pre-martial law years. Datumanong's appointment answers the long-standing complaint that the Muslims have been excluded from the decision-making center. The Guingona nomination, together with the other appointments of Mindanaoans in the Cabinet and key government bodies, is an attempt to correct the dominance of "Imperial Manila" in the distribution of representation, power and resources, over the regions, aside from addressing the common complaint that Mindanao has been neglected by previous administrations, except when the government decided to wage war against the Muslims.

In nominating Guingona, Ms Macapagal said, "Despite its potential to help us fast-track programs for economic growth and political stability, Mindanao has not exactly occupied the top rung in our totem pole of priorities. It is time we heal the wounds inflicted on Mindanao residents because of unfulfilled commitments. It is time we build a bridge for economically vibrant Mindanao, especially in areas pock-marked by conflicts between brother Filipinos."

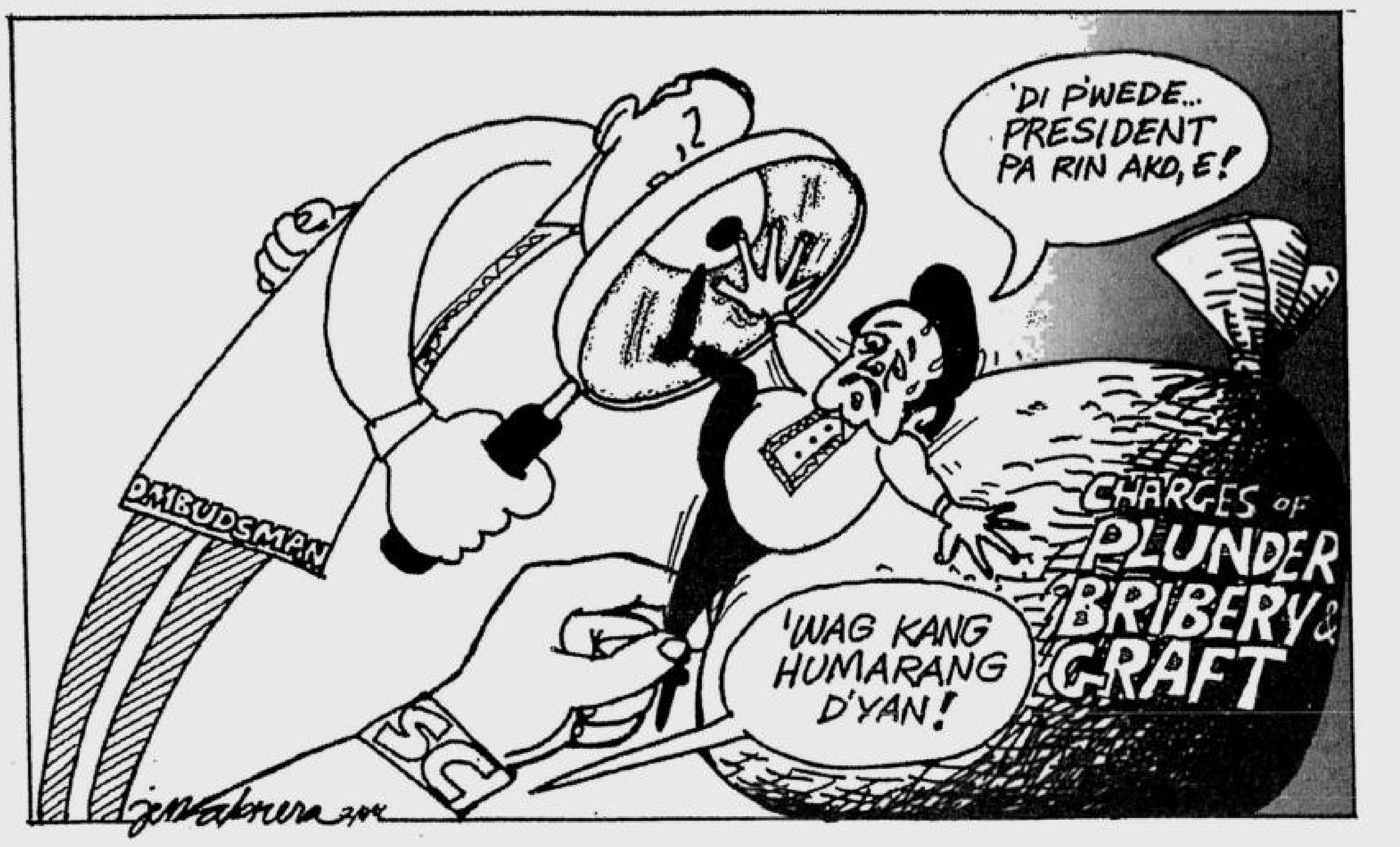
A precondition, of course, to relaunching economic development programs for Mindanao is rebuilding a climate for negotiations with the MILF. The MILF has responded positively to the gestures of the new administration and appears keen about renewing the dialogue that collapsed from the "all-out war" policy of ousted President Estrada. A ceasefire is the stage from which to start the dialogue and confidence-building. Economic recovery programs cannot start without this climate. During Estrada's war in Mindanao, multilateral official development assistance (ODA) was frozen because security could not be ensured for the staff monitoring the projects. The change of administration with a more pacific approach to the Muslim rebellion opens the door to a renewed flow of such funds.

Now that Ms Macapagal has tried to tilt the balance of representation in favor of Mindanao, she is expected to substantiate her policy by plowing resources into Mindanao. To make sure the appointments of Mindanaoans to top government positions do not partake of tokenism, the President might reconsider her earlier plan to designate the Vice President as concurrent foreign secretary. Guingona should use his post to lead the implementation of Mindanao priority programs and ending its alienation from the central government.

There's another awkward situation flowing from making the Vice President serve as foreign secretary at the same time. When the President travels overseas, the foreign secretary will have to travel with her, leaving a void in Manila.

There's no lack of qualified candidates, either from the career service of the Department of Foreign Affairs or from the private sector, for the post of foreign secretary. The argument of career DFA officials that the next secretary should come from the ranks of the career service because such officials have the necessary experience and skills does not always wash. In the history of our foreign service, there have been brilliant foreign secretaries recruited from outside the career service.

In the case of Guingona, given his association with Mindanao since the days of his father as President Quezon's commissioner for Mindanao and the minorities, his experience would be better utilized in the Mindanao development effort and making development an instrument for peace and unity.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Guingona deserves the vice presidency

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

AS I predicted in the Jan. 30 column, Senate Minority Leader and Lakas president Teofisto Guingona was nominated by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to be her Vice President.

It was a good choice. Guingona is worthy to be Vice President. And choosing him for the job was a safe decision for Gloria to make.

Perhaps she remembered that when her own father, Diosdado Macapagal, was the vice president of President Carlos P. Garcia, he spent his term going to the provinces to deliver speeches and shake as many hands as he could. When Garcia ran for reelection, Macapagal ran against him and won. Gloria does not want her own Vice President to do the same thing to her.

All vice presidents have an eye on the presidency. And the popularity of all presidents wane after the first term. In the case of former President Estrada, his term was not even halfway through when he became so unpopular that the people threw him out. The odds are that Gloria's own popularity will also wane after her first three years. Filipinos are quick to be discontented when their expectations are not fulfilled.

Depending on her performance, Gloria's popularity may not be as high as it is now when she runs for reelection in 2004. When that happens, her own Vice President, if he takes pains to be popular, may be adopted by another party and run against her. No president except Marcos has ever been reelected.

Other politicians catapulted to the vice presidency may run against Gloria. But not Guingona. Unlike Julius Caesar, he is not an ambitious man.

As events have shown, Guingona is a loyal party man. From a very weak party after it was routed by Erap's coalition in the 1998 elections, Guingona built up Lakas and made it a credible opposition party.

People now acknowledge that it was Guingona's "I Accuse" speech in the Senate on Oct. 4, 2000, before Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson made his own exposé, that prompted the Senate blue ribbon committee to investigate Erap. But much earlier than that, on April 3 last year, Guingona asked Erap to resign in an open letter he read on the Senate floor. It was a lonely thing to do then, barely 22 months after Erap won by the biggest majority in the history of the Philippines. Even Guingona's own party did not endorse it fully. It merely declared the call as Guingona's personal "act of conscience."

But the open letter accurately described national conditions. To repeat what I wrote in the Jan. 30 column, "it pointed to a distorted sense of honor, honesty and moral values. It pictured a nation awash in crime, corruption, cronyism, gambling, smuggling and drugs. It pictured a Mindanao awash in blood and suffering refugees. It pictured a President without vision and a country without direction except downhill."

Six months later came Guingona's "I Accuse" speech, and it was all downhill for Joseph Estrada from that point on.

Guingona deserves the vice presidency as a reward for his role in the exit of Erap from and the entry of Gloria into Malacañang.

* * *

The so-called "People Power II leaders" feted by Jaime Cardinal Sin at the Archbishop's Palace don't deserve the credit. The witnesses against Erap in the impeachment trial deserve credit but not the credit-grabbers who claim to have "led" People Power II. Nobody led the people at Edsa. Nobody told them to go there. They went there voluntarily, spontaneously, in anger over the suppression of evidence in the Senate impeachment trial. This early, the *trapos* are already trying to rewrite history.

The assassinated Popoy Lagman's Sanlakas is right: the Comelec should not allow the administration to use "People Power Coalition" or "Edsa Forces" as the name of their coalesced parties. They should not be allowed to ride on the glory and reputation of People Power II for their own selfish interests. The names are already hallowed in our history and should not be cheapened by opportunistic politicians.

* * *

Feisty anti-crime fighter Carina Agarao called me up yesterday after I quoted, almost word for word, in the Feb. 6 column, her and Teresita Ang See's verbal exchange with Executive Secretary Renato de Villa over the appointment of Director General Leandro Mendoza as chief of the Philippine National Police.

"The quotes give the impression that we were *bastos* and *mataray*," she said. "But we were really very polite and soft-spoken.

"That last quote from me—'*Tessie, halika na, alis na tayo. Nagsasayang lang tayo ng oras dito*'—appears as if I said it loudly and impolitely. Actually, I just whispered it to Tessie. It was already 2 o'clock in the morning."

Agarao said that from Burgundy Place on Katipunan Avenue, where they met with President Macapagal, they went to De Villa's residence in Ayala Heights. She said they expected De Villa to be a gentleman but they were shocked and disappointed by his behavior.

* * *

Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta faxed me a note asking if the item on her in the Jan. 31 column was a joke.

Of course it was. Wasn't that obvious? If she missed the joke, it means it wasn't such a good joke after all, and I apologize for it.

* * *

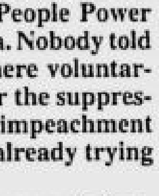
NOW, this one's a political party joke:

Erap's Partido ng Masang Pilipino couldn't get veteran politicians to join its senatorial ticket. So it is slowly making up a slate composed of show-biz folk and businessmen-friends of Erap. The first team is composed of Fernando Poe Jr., Erap crony Dante Tan, sexy star Ina Raymundo, and Gloria-sized actor Niño Muhlach.

It is called the Poe-Tan-Ina-Niño Team.

Supreme Moot Court

WINDMILLS



Jerry Barican

MISTAKES of the Supreme Court, law school professors tell their students, are the law of the land. And the highway to hell is bulldozed over with good intentions.

So how did we get into this legal fix over whether we have a regular or an acting president? For the answer, please return to the beginning of this paragraph.

It will be easy enough to find legal fault with the Supreme Court over its role in this affair. It has yet to explain how the matter of a presidential oath-taking could have been the mere "administrative matter" it subsequently described it to be. The Chief Justice has not explained why in a televised interview on the Supreme Court grounds he said (or missaid) that he was on his way to administer the oath to "the acting President."

Worse than not explaining their reasons may be explaining it. It may be extremely difficult for the Court to craft a legal theory that removes a president who has not formally resigned or been convicted on impeachment without damaging the fabric of constitutionalism.

Will they cite the military's withdrawal of support as a basis for a permanent incapacity? It would be extremely dangerous to constitutionalize the role of Roman legions in emperor-making. Will they convert Estrada's farewell speech into the equivalent of a legal resignation? It goes against every legal precedent that a resignation needs to be in writing and unequivocal but they may need to grasp at straws in the wind in order to make bricks.

Or will the Supreme Court simply say, unconvincingly but legally since there is no further appeal, that this is a political question, that it has been resolved by history, and (by then) recognized by the representative political branch of government, Congress, by confirming a vice president? The Supreme Court, after all, is sensible enough to not only follow the elections, but also revolutions.

Should Congress be persuaded to confirm quickly a presidential nominee for vice president, it would cement the President's assertion that she is the nation's 14th president. The opposition in Congress, however, may choose to use the confirmation hearings to question the circumstances surrounding the President's oath-taking.

It might subpoena the justices or ask that the signed copy of the presidential oath be procured. The justices, in turn, could refuse to answer on two grounds: they are a co-equal branch of government and, more to the point, this very issue is before them in a case brought by Estrada himself.

The opposition could also try to delay a vote for confirmation in Congress, arguing it will take the issue to the country in the coming elections. That will bring about its own political backlash. In brief, a confirmation, to provide stability, needs to be done quickly. If not, it is best deferred lest it have the exact opposite effect.

All these maneuverings are distressful for the average citizen. People want stability and peace and a focus on rebuilding the economy. They do not want anything that causes more political tension. This is where the personal future of former President Estrada enters into the political equation.

One survey says he retains some 30 percent support in Metro Manila and, conceivably, as much or more elsewhere. These figures have caused Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. to suggest that Estrada be allowed to leave for abroad as a better alternative to continued destabilization. And although many would hail seeing the former President in jail as a triumph of the rule of law, it could undeniably also whip up a good deal of sympathy for him among countrymen who are forgiving by nature. Jail can be a good place to wage a political fight, if one chooses.

In the end and if he is left with no choice, Estrada might conclude that the only way to solve his legal problems is to address them politically. That means campaigning nationwide whether from in or out of jail. This is why the administration prefers that Estrada would just somehow go away, preferably through the backdoor.

These maneuverings have placed the Supreme Court back in the center of the storm. Estrada has brought, and will continue to bring, contentious cases before it. These cases are an embarrassment for the Court. It has been an active participant in these events and now it finds itself judging issues over which it played a central political part.

Ultimately, the Court may choose its way out of its present difficulties by refusing to decide on the issue until after June 2004, after which it can simply dismiss the entire matter as being moot and academic. This is Zen constitutionalism—deciding in favor of the status quo by not deciding; confirming without explaining.

That the Court will maintain the current order is not in doubt. Not even the Supreme Court is blind to political realities or needs. But after the legal contortions are over and the hurly-burly's done, the Supreme Court must bring from this experience the lesson of self-restraint, late though this may be. We already have many self-damaged institutions. The Supreme Court need not add itself to that list. An activist Court that gets itself involved in political questions quickly becomes a Supreme Moot Court and has no one to blame but itself. Surely, no one wants that, least of all the Court.

* * *

This is a minor point but deserving of a column's afterthought. Can the new President indicate exactly how she wishes to be addressed?

The "Macapagal-Arroyo administration" is kilometric. This newspaper uses the form Ms Macapagal or the Macapagal administration for consistency throughout its news and opinion pages. That form, however, could cause present readers and future historians some confusion with the administration of the President's father.

So is it the Arroyo administration? Is she President Arroyo, President Macapagal, or President Macapagal-Arroyo? My own instinct is to choose the first, but this is really a matter for the President herself to settle.

Is it the egalitarian Ms President, the Cory-like Mrs. President, or the Madame President of international usage? Although she says any form is acceptable, except "Mrs. Acting President" (which no one would use anyway), she may help us by remembering that even George Washington told people how to address him, hence, the now common "Mr. President."

This newspaper has its stylebook. What is Malacañang's preference?

Appoint Tanjuatco to Comelec fast

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE MAY election is less than 100 days away, but this is not the only reason why the posts of Comelec chair and two commissioners ought to be filled immediately. From what I gather, with time running short, preparations for the May polls are still in disarray. The ballots and forms have not been printed, the indelible ink not yet available, etc. In addition, the computerization of the elections, as provided by law, has been stalemated by the stupid objections of Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco, who ought to be the next candidate for impeachment.

* * *

Namfrel is still fighting for accreditation to do a citizens' quick-count in the face of Tancangco's strong objections. But that's another story. At the moment, Namfrel has recommended former Rizal Rep. Emigdio Tanjuatco for Comelec chief, vice Harriet Demetriou who has retired, amid appeals to President Macapagal to fill the vacancies in the poll body precisely because of all the problems relating to the May election. Namfrel is also nominating lawyers Resurreccion Borra and Chito Gascon as commissioners.

* * *

This column would like to second the nomination of Tanjuatco as Comelec chief. Tanjuatco, who has deliberately stayed away from politics for three years now, in order to get a breather and reflect on his priorities in life, is well-equipped for the job. In fact he knows its tasks so well that he has expressed great fears about taking the job to Namfrel chief Joe Concepcion, in view of the impossible things that need to be done at this point. Tanjuatco chaired the suffrage and electoral reforms committee of the House in the 10th Congress and was responsible for convening civil society organizations, the Comelec and Congress to pursue meaningful electoral reforms. He authored RA 8436, the election computerization law, and the anti-political dynasty law, despite the fact that the latter would affect him personally since he has several relatives who are also in politics. Over the years I've had many occasions to discuss electoral reforms with Tanjuatco and I know he can head the Comelec with credibility and integrity.

* * *

The Inquirer has never feted its awardees to the 10-year-old "Filipino of the Year" award, but it broke tradition the other evening by hosting a dinner in honor of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., awarded for the year 2000. Sans his magisterial robes and the platform from where he usually rules in the Supreme Court or in the recently closed impeachment trial, Davide comes across as a warm and simple human being with a sense of humor and an elephantine memory.

* * *

He said that the new magistrates' robes designed for the Court's centennial this June carries the colors of the UP, maroon and black. I observed that this would only reinforce the bias he exhibited at the Senate trial for the superiority of UP graduates.

I asked him the question on everyone's mind: How did he manage not only to remain awake for as much as six hours at the trial but also to follow every word said so he could make his rulings? He said he was drinking lots of coffee and taking vitamins.

I asked him why he did not insist on making his ruling on the opening of the second envelope even if Sen. Francisco Tatad jumped the gun on him. Davide replied that faced with that "dilemma," as he called it then, he deemed it best not to assert himself as he realized that the 11 senators were determined to prevent it. At that point, he felt it was best that the truth about the senators' stand came out.

* * *

That unprecedented act of removing his robe in the Senate and in full view of the cameras that fateful Tuesday evening was deliberate. It was his way of saying he considered the trial finished.

Davide also said that when the Supreme Court ruled on Jan. 20 that Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo could take her oath as President, there was no doubt in the magistrates' minds that Joseph Estrada was no longer able to govern since the vital institutions of government had withdrawn their support.

Despite his enormous popularity, Davide stressed that he would not enter politics. Perhaps someday, he said, around the year 2005, he might write his memoirs in retirement.

* * *

There were three factors that must have weighed strongly in favor of Sen. Tito Guingona as Ms Macapagal's Vice President. One is that Guingona is the unanimous bet of the party he heads, Lakas. Although the administration coalition for the May election will be composed of various groups, Lakas will be the mainstay, and Ms Macapagal had to heed its call for the appointment of Guingona. The second factor is that he comes from Mindanao, whose economic development she is bent on pushing under a strategy of a peaceful resolution of conflict. It's time the government focused its efforts on the big island, and Guingona is only the latest addition to the team of Mindanaoans in the Cabinet.

* * *

As public works secretary, Simeon Datumanong is expected to push the big island's infrastructure development. Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez is from Davao del Norte, while the new presidential adviser on rural development, Paul Dominguez, is a Mindanaoan, too. On the other hand, former Rep. Mike Mastura will likely be the Lakas candidate for governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. If Guingona is named as foreign secretary, as the President earlier indicated, he doubtless would use that office to link up anew with the international Muslim community to get its cooperation in the development of Muslim Mindanao. The partnership of all these officials from Mindanao should be quite dynamic and bring much welcome progress to the island.

* * *

The third factor that made the President choose Guingona was the support of majority of the NGOs that composed the "Edsa forces." They were all for Guingona. One of his earliest callers after his nomination was the first vice president from Mindanao, 85-year-old Emmanuel Pelaez, who expressed his elation and readiness to help Guingona in his new task. Pelaez pointed to the long service record of the Guingonas to the nation, beginning with his father, Teofisto Sr., a former judge, commissioner under President Quezon and senator. Ruthie, Tito's wife, herself comes from a political family, her father having been a longtime governor of Misamis Oriental.

* * *

Given the new Vice President's service in two branches of government, his Ateneo education and his sophisticated family background, doubts raised by some DFA people about his ability to tackle the intricacies of diplomacy and international relations are ridiculous. Some DFA people insist that their new chief should come from the ranks of the career service. But with one or two exceptions, all foreign secretaries have come from outside and did very well. I can easily think of Pelaez and Raul Manglapus. The last foreign secretary, Domingo Siazon, was not exactly a career DFA official as he spent most of his career in the United Nations.

Circles of power

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HOW true are reports that this early in the Macapagal administration, there already are competing "circles of power" in the center of power itself? One power circle, it is said, is headed by Executive Secretary Renato de Villa and it presumably follows the "line of command" through his deputy executive secretaries, PMS head Vicky Garchitorena, the Cabinet secretaries and on down to the bureaucracy. Competing in influence, if not power, is another interest group, composed supposedly of chief of staff Renato Corona, presidential legal counsel Avelino Cruz, and presidential spouse Mike Arroyo. The two circles intersect, of course, in the person of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo who, if the talk is true, must feel herself impossibly torn between the two camps.

An example given of how the lines of influence from these competing centers of power often cross and tangle is the matter of the appointment of the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications. Former DOTC Undersecretary Josie Lichauco was supposedly asked if she wanted to return to government service and head the department which she had served for decades. Lichauco turned down the offer, saying she no longer wanted to return to government, but suggested that former SSS president Renato Valencia be appointed instead. The President herself later told Lichauco that she was appointing Valencia to the DOTC.

Elated, Lichauco called up Valencia to tell him the good news. In a meeting with friends in the business and civic community that same day, Valencia let drop hints that he would be accepting "soon" an appointment to the Cabinet. But imagine his and Lichauco's surprise the next day when the President announced the appointment of Rep. Pantaleon Alvarez.

What happened? Apparently, even as Valencia's appointment papers were being processed through the normal channels, someone from within the other power circle successfully lobbied for Alvarez and preempted Valencia's appointment.

Alvarez's appointment is a mystery. The only reason the President cited for his appointment is that he hails from Mindanao. But the highest position he ever held in government, before serving his first term in the House, was as assistant general manager of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. He was also implicated in some reportedly shady deals in relation to the construction of the Centennial Airport. So how come he was appointed? What happened to the supposed benchmarks of integrity, competence, ability and experience?

* * *

OBSERVERS claim that Alvarez was named to DOTC on the strength of the recommendation of Lito Osmeña of Promdi, one of the parties that early on decided to throw its support behind the United Opposition. Osmeña seems to be quite "fond" of the DOTC. During the Ramos administration, he pushed hard for the appointment of Secretary Jesus Garcia, whose only qualification for the post, it seemed, was that he hailed from Cebu. What is it about the DOTC that Osmeña should scramble to put his own "man" to head it?

Osmeña's "hand" is also suspect in the appointment of two members of the Cebu provincial board to be the chair and president of the GSIS board. Quite apart from their questionable abilities and qualifications to manage the billions in benefits and retirement funds of government workers, their twin appointment seems a recipe for collusion. If they are both beholden to one sponsor, how can they check instances of abuse of position and corruption within the GSIS board? Who'll protect the interests of the country's civil servants?

* * *

ONE possible and desired appointment which is supported by the private sector as well as by no less than Finance Secretary Bert Romulo is that of former Budget Secretary (Aquino era) Guillermo Carague to the Commission on Audit. Being himself a former budget secretary, Romulo's endorsement of Carague for the COA is certainly credible. COA Chair Celso Gangan retired on Feb. 1, but his replacement has yet to be named.

Malacañang supposedly has looked favorably on the appointment of Carague as COA chair, but during a "courtesy" call on the President, Gangan handed her a petition, supposedly signed by COA employees, requesting that an "insider" be appointed as his successor. This is strange because none of the incumbent commissioners rose from the ranks, all of them being political appointees of Erap.

Worse, word reached the Search Committee that Carague has a pending case before the Ombudsman. Carague, as well as his backers, have denied that he has a pending case before the Ombudsman.

Certainly, as former budget secretary and member of the Monetary Board, Carague is in a good position to shake up the COA and transform it into a real watchdog against misuse and abuse of government funds. Is this the reason some parties are determined to block his appointment?

* * *

COMMENTING on the column on "Mike and Mikey," a reader says she was "alarmed" to see the President's husband seated beside the President at the head table during the audience with members of the Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry. "What was he doing there?" the reader asks. "It would have been understandable if this were a social event or a dinner for friends. But this was an official function. So Mike Arroyo had no business being there."

I myself had to restrain my eyebrows from flying off my face when I caught TV news footage showing the First Gentleman shaking hands with Lucio Tan. Oh-oh, I thought, what agreements have they reached now?

Maybe we (the reader and I) are just paranoid, or too cynical to buy Arroyo's line that the only role he will play in his wife's administration is that of photographer. But for our peace of mind, and for appearance's sake, President Gloria should perhaps refrain from putting her husband on display too often.

Agarao's killer 'escaped'?

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

WHEN people ask me why the arrest last Jan. 3 of the alleged killer of human rights lawyer Clarence Agarao did not land prominently in the newspapers and when they demand to know why the "escape" of this confessed killer on Jan. 21, the day after President Estrada was ousted, did not seem to be news (I did not even know about it then, and neither did President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo until recently), I am exasperated and I want to yell: "I don't know!" My lame excuse: There must have been a "bottleneck" somewhere and reporters' stories on it didn't get noticed.

Don't believe me. Was it the People Power euphoria?

You can imagine the rage of Clarence's widow, Carina Agarao of the Crusade Against Violence (CAV).

After I learned (from television) that the alleged gunman, Luisito San Juan, was arrested last Jan. 3, I sent a message to Carina. I congratulated her, jubilated with her.

She sent me a pillow. Was it her way of saying to her sympathizers, now we can all get some sleep?

Carina told me she could not describe her feelings when she came face to face with her husband's alleged killer. When she saw an old typewriter, she wanted to pick it up and smash San Juan's head with it. Here he was, she said, the man who wrecked her life, her family, the man who snuffed out the life of the man she loved, the father of two young sons, a lawyer who had so much to give.

I had written a magazine cover story on Carina's crusade against crime a couple of years ago and I was able to get a glimpse of what was boiling inside her. No, it was not hatred. It was rage, a rage for justice and righteousness. She wanted not just the gunman but the mastermind as well. She knew she could get justice for herself and for others, too, but she was not getting it. But why?

Right after Clarence was killed in 1996 and buried, Carina hit the ground running. She has never really grieved to the limit, so to speak. Justice for Clarence has almost become an obsession for her. Carina wears two wedding rings—Clarence's and hers—clamped together and topped with a heart-shaped diamond. All-black becomes her. Carina is a looker and not a few sexist remarks have been thrown in her direction by *macho-chists* who want her out of the way.

On Jan. 21, the day after President Macapagal took her oath, Tessie Ang-See of the Citizens Action Against Crime and Carina of the CAV went to see her to relay what they thought of acting PNP chief Leandro Mendoza's appointment. According to Carina, while they were on their way to Malacañang, outgoing PNP chief Panfilo Lacson called Ang-See and asked her not to proceed and object. Moments later, Carina's phone rang. PNP chief of personnel Efren Fernandez was also asking them not to proceed.

Carina was so upset that Tessie had to take away the phone from her because she was driving. The two women proceeded anyway. They got to see the new President. At that time, they had no idea that San Juan would soon be "sprung out" of prison against his wishes and vanish.

San Juan was the gun-for-hire who killed Carina's husband, Clarence. The mastermind, she said, is a "close associate" of Mendoza. At the time Clarence was killed, he was the volunteer lawyer of the family of Alberto Quiatzon who was shot on Nov. 20, 1995 and died two days later. Before he died, Quiatzon identified his assailants. Clarence filed murder charges against the suspects, Mayor Reynato Macalalag and Hector Samonte of Laguna. Clarence was himself murdered on April 30, 1996.

Shortly after his arrest and when he spoke with Carina face to face, San Juan confessed to having shot Clarence on orders of somebody. A TV crew caught that. "Ma'am," he told Carina after he had confessed, "if you cannot find it in your heart to forgive me, at least try to protect my family." San Juan knew he would soon be a dead man.

These past five years, before he was arrested, where was San Juan? Sources say he was just around. He later fully emerged and was back in circulation with his bosses. His arrest last month was unexpected. Police found him acting suspiciously and with a .45 caliber pistol in a Pagsanjan cockpit. He was arrested and later identified by witnesses as Clarence's killer.

Col. Wilfredo Dulay, Laguna's police director, put San Juan in one of the headquarters' rooms and not in a regular cell with other detainees. San Juan was supposed to be guarded tightly. About two weeks, one day into the Macapagal presidency, while people basked in the afterglow of People Power II, San Juan vanished.

So what do we make of this? What is going on? Read Neal Cruz's column last Tuesday ("The Little President at his unguarded worst") for the verbal exchange between Carina and Executive Secretary Renato "Mr. Clean" de Villa, Mendoza's *kababayan* and defender. Shocking.

Last Monday Carina went to see former President Cory Aquino and expressed her concerns. Cory listened. Carina felt relieved that someone understood what she was saying. "I was overwhelmed by her kindness," Carina said.

Cory is the widow of an assassinated man. She knows pain and what it's like to embrace a bloodied and dead husband. Carina went through the same—clutching her husband's limp body several hours after he had been declared gone, desperately hoping to draw out one breath, one sound, one sign that he was alive, not dead.

Anyway, later last Monday, after listening to Carina, Cory called the President. That night President Macapagal spoke with Carina. It seemed the President hadn't been kept abreast by her men in uniform. But now she knows.

Carina's furious cry and challenge to Mendoza after San Juan's "escape" was: "Produce San Juan in five days or resign." President Macapagal should crack the whip and say the same thing. She's the commander in chief.

A close encounter with HIV

YOUNGBLOOD

Akira

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I NEVER thought it could happen to someone close to me. My family's close encounter with the affliction that gained notoriety during the latter part of the 20th century scared us out of our wits. The experience heightened my consciousness about the sad reality that the dreaded disease makes no exception. The risk of being afflicted by the virus transcends social class, gender and professional boundaries.

My sister is a medical technologist. She never practiced her profession here in the Philippines for the same economic reason that drives many of our workers to seek employment abroad. She worked in Saudi Arabia for six years and did the routine work of collecting various specimens and subjecting the same to laboratory tests.

Although I had heard before that med techs (as they are usually called) were among those who were most at risk of contracting HIV through accidental pricking with the needle, I simply shrugged it off, thinking that such a freak accident would never happen to my sister. Who would have thought that my sister would be like Sleeping Beauty whose life would be wasted not by so many years of deep slumber but by the insidious infections brought about by AIDS?

Then it happened. She took a break from work and settled for three years in the Philippines. In June last year, she went to Dubai to scout for job opportunities there. She found one in an elite hospital. She returned to the country two months later to work on her papers.

Like any departing Filipino worker, she was required to undergo a physical examination in the clinic accredited by the employment agency. The results of the medical examination dashed my mother's hope of getting some additional cash flowing into the our family's revenue. The HIV screening test performed by the clinic showed that my sister was HIV positive.

The news was so painful that I could not help but ask God how He could let such a tragedy happen to our family. After a series of trials in recent years, I thought the worst was over for our family.

We were practically clueless on how the virus got into her system, considering that my sister was never promiscuous. It caused me so much pain to look at my mother, now old and frail, being subjected to intense emotional stress. And every time I looked at my 3-year-old niece, I had to fight off the thought that such an innocent child might herself be HIV positive.

A month after we were informed of the results of my sister's HIV test, we got the confirmatory result from the Bureau of Research Laboratory. After being ignored by the clinic that performed the initial test, she had gone to the Remedios Foundation Clinic for the confirmatory test. In contrast to the treatment she got from the agency's clinic, the members of the medical staff at the Remedios Foundation were caring and sensitive to people caught with the same predicament as my sister. After an agonizingly long wait, the truth was out. God must have heard our prayers for the confirmatory test showed that my sister was free of HIV after all.

Now I am thinking of filing a civil case against the clinic and its staff for subjecting our whole family to unnecessary mental torture and emotional distress on account of their negligence and wrong diagnosis of the real state of health of my sister. If they did it to my sister, they are likely to do it again to other workers who want to work abroad. And maybe these workers would not have the determination to seek redress for the mental anguish they would suffer.

In retrospect, the harrowing experience changed my perspective on life. It made me realize that our earthly journey is indeed a roller-coaster ride that will take us through so many unexpected and, at times, frightening twists and turns. The realization that the future holds nothing but uncertainty has prompted me to arrange my priorities in life. For pragmatic considerations, I now make short-term plans and I have stopped wondering where I might be 20 years hence. I have come to believe that my fate through the interaction of unseen forces will eventually unfold on its own.

That experience also made me come to terms with the reality of AIDS. I am not about to make pretenses about my previous attitude toward the disease. I used to be a part of the majority who remain indifferent about the deadly malaise. Due to ignorance, I viewed persons with AIDS with prejudice and self-righteous condemnation. My sister's close encounter with HIV gave the disease a human face and made me see the travails an HIV carrier and his family must go through.

And though it sounds trite, it is this one experience in our family life that made us drop all our inhibitions about making outward displays of affection and loyalty to each other. It made me regret the times that I took my family for granted and the wasted opportunities for bonding. Although I consider it to be the most depressing episode in our lives, I would be willing to go through the same experience again for it taught me the value of family and faith in God.

My sister's brush with HIV was like a nightmare that jolted us into wakefulness. For me, it was both a dream and reality. Unlike a bad dream, this one really happened. Akin to a dream, the virus turned out to be merely a figment of the subconscious. And I truly hope and pray that it remains that way.

Akira, 28, works in a bank. She used a pen name so as not to prejudice the case they are filing against the clinic for negligence.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...?

'Sorry cop' murder case

ON OCT. 9, 1999, Allyson Dizon and his wife Elena were shot dead by SPO1 Federico Patag of the Valenzuela City Police Station's Drug Enforcement Group. Their children Allan, 13, and Lalaine, 11, also sustained gunshot wounds but survived.

Police investigation revealed that Patag went to the Dizons' home at 2 a.m. and forced his way into the kitchen. Allyson was awakened by the barking of dogs. When Allyson found Patag in their kitchen, the policeman berated them for filing a complaint with the People's Law Enforcement Board in connection with their arrest on Sept. 28, 1999 for drug possession. "*Itutuloy niyo ba ang demanda o papatayin ko kayong apat?*" Patag demanded.

Fearing for their lives, the couple tried to explain their side and pleaded for their lives. But Patag shot the couple several times and then fired at the two children before leaving the place.

Three days later, Patag called Chief Supt. Nemesio Neron to apologize for bringing shame on the police ranks. He assured Neron that he would surrender soon. However, he did not present himself for investigation despite two subpoenas sent by the city prosecutor.

On Nov. 15, 1999, Patag was charged with two counts of murder for the death of the couple and two counts of frustrated murder for the injuries he caused to the Dizon children. The cases were assigned to Judge Adriano Osorio of Branch 171 of the Valenzuela City Regional Trial Court.

Warrants for Patag's arrest were issued on Nov. 18, 1999. A P200,000 bail was recommended for each of the two charges of frustrated murder but no bail was recommended for the two murder charges.

Case status: On May 5, Osorio issued alias warrants at the request of the prosecution. The judge noted that despite the issuance of warrants on Nov. 17, 1999, the accused had not been arrested. Patag, however, still remains at large.

Armin P. Adina, PDI Research Department

Popoy

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I MET Popoy Lagman under the strangest circumstances. It was at a press conference he and other leaders of the New People's Army and the Alex Boncayao Brigade held in the outskirts of Quezon City—he was underground then. This was more than a decade ago during Cory's time. Popoy et al. had asked for the meeting with members of the media to explain their side on a raging controversy.

That controversy was the famous, or infamous, bus burnings. Its context was this: Some time during her term, Cory allowed the oil giants to raise oil prices despite widespread public perception that it was unjustified. The oil price increase swiftly triggered public protests, which snowballed into an entire movement called the Kilusang Rollback. Emboldened by this, and to "raise the struggle to higher levels," the NPA began stopping buses outside Metro Manila and burning them when their drivers refused to join the strike. As it turned out, the fires that consumed the buses consumed the protest movement as well. Overnight, the protest screeched to a halt. The bus burnings sparked angry protests from the public, the commuting *masa* above all.

Popoy wanted to explain their side. I had heard of him before. He was the stuff of legend and nightmare in equal measure, spoken about with awe and scorn by friends and enemies—not necessarily respectively. The impression I got was that he was feared and respected but not worshipped or loved. None of it seemed to fit the flesh-and-blood version, who didn't loom larger than life and seemed reasonable and soft-spoken. He and his friends had laid their guns away for the press conference, but not so far that they couldn't get to them if some unpleasant surprise came their way. The atmosphere did not inspire ease and comfort.

The problem began during the open forum. Popoy and the others had taken a long time to explain what they stood for and how they saw the oil price hike in the context of the revolutionary struggle, which we listened to respectfully though impatiently. During the open forum, we, being journalists, zeroed in on the most newsworthy aspect of what had happened, which was the bus burnings. Popoy and the others answered our questions but kept begging us to look at the bigger picture, or the larger context, as they put it. The bus burnings, which they insisted remained basically a correct strategy, were just a small part of it.

I could see that after some time Popoy was getting pissed off by our seeming obsession with the bus burnings. The explosion did not take long to come. His tone grew sharper as he lamented the idea of people who just stood in the sidelines—reporters and columnists especially—feeling free to judge those who risked their lives in the struggle for a better world. In fact, he said, the journalists themselves were to blame for dragging down the protest. They had made a mountain out of a molehill, and not being in a position to know that the masses thoroughly approved of the bus burnings, had brought the world to share their myopia.

I disagreed, saying the media reports about the protest had a sense of proportion and fairly accurately reflected the public sentiment about the bus burnings. (I myself had called the people who wreaked them a bunch of terrorists in my column.) Popoy answered back, and before long I found myself arguing heatedly—for the first time in my life in a press conference—with the person I was supposed to be interviewing. Popoy was saying in a raised voice: "No, you people were wrong to exploit the sensational and draw public attention away from the real issues in the protest." I replied in equally heatedly: "People are watching a play, when suddenly someone darts out from nowhere and streaks in front of the stage. Whom do you think people will watch—the characters on the stage or the streaker? That was what you did when you burned the buses—you streaked while a play was going on. Don't blame the media."

We tossed a few more angry remarks at each other, and then he finally said: "It's your choice. If you want to remain on the steps of the bus of history (*kung gusto n'yong manatili sa estribo ng kasaysayan*), it's up to you." A reply leaped to my mind, but suddenly realizing that I was talking to the bosses of the NPA and the ABB, who had laid their guns away but could always get to them when an unpleasant surprise came their way, I decided that inarticulateness was the better part of valor. That reply was: "Well, if the bus of history is headed toward the cliffs, I would most assuredly prefer to be on its steps rather than inside of it. That way I can always jump."

I met Popoy several more times after that, particularly after he went above ground. But though we never became friends, I learned over time to give him grudging respect. The man was ardent in his beliefs to a point of, well, his enemies would say, lunacy, but his friends would call iron resolve. I can only say with certainty, to a point of his betting his life on it. It was a level of conviction that emboldened him, right or wrong, to say and do what he did. That he was fearless he showed again and again, and in ways that added whole new dimensions to the word. Only last week, I mentioned him in that column about how the Left was left out in Gloria's appointments: How he faced up to Erap one Labor Day in the very belly of the beast, at Malacañang and dared the most powerful person in the land to improve the country's peace and order by jailing Lucio Tan.

My friends at PAL also still tell the tale of how he refused to be cowed by black propaganda that he took money from Tan to sell out the PAL unions, and went with alacrity to a Senate hearing to answer those charges against him. Popoy brought with him a pile of documents that, he told the senators, would prove who in fact were receiving money from Tan. Nobody knows now whether he was just bluffing or not. Suddenly realizing that they were dealing with someone who had laid his ammunition aside but could always get to it when an unpleasant surprise came his way, the senators declared that since Popoy's accusers were not at the hearing, they were stopping it and excusing him.

Popoy Lagman was a strange man, in ways that both attracted and repelled. Definitely, he was strange in a way that makes us ask questions about the relative merits of a safe, comfortable, bourgeois life—and not find any definite answers. He was a man full of contradictions, as plentiful as the contradictions of his time and place that his ideology or engagements in life brought him to glimpse. As plentiful as the life and movement he embraced.

He died a couple of years before his 50th birthday. I half suspect after living a life twice as long.

Technicalities

THE PAPER CHASE continues. For several weeks we saw the unraveling of a grand paper trail exposing Erap's corruption. Now Erap and his lackeys are initiating a new kind of paper trail as they bombard our courts with petitions. Last Tuesday, the Supreme Court threw out his bid to stop the Office of the Ombudsman from investigating complaints of plunder, bribery and graft against him.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

But even before the Court could junk that petition, Erap's new lawyer Rene Saguisag was filing still another petition, this time questioning Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's presidency and calling on the Court to declare Erap the "lawful and incumbent president."

Some foreign commentators have labeled People Power II as "mob rule" and "a defeat of due process." I wonder what they have to say now. Local political analysts have responded to the foreign commentaries by pointing out that People Power II was in fact a defense of democracy, a way to avoid a bloody confrontation that would have erupted if Erap and his allies continued to mock democratic processes through technicalities.

Certainly we're seeing this shameless use of technicalities even now. Erap claims that he never resigned, and he even projects himself as a hero by claiming he went on leave to prevent bloodshed. Most Filipinos see all this as a way for Erap to invoke presidential immunity from criminal proceedings. Not surprisingly, Ernesto Maceda has already made one of his bold predictions, one that just might come true: the legal proceedings against Erap could drag on well beyond 2004.

"Due process" would have kept Erap in power if people had not acted. "Due process" would have destroyed, and continued to threaten, the very democratic institutions Erap was abusing. If public indignation was so strong—I had friends who broke out in tears as they watched the senators vote against the opening of the second envelope—it was because Filipinos know only too well how the system works or doesn't work. It is one that is too quick to send the poor to Death Row, on the flimsiest of evidence such as a few marijuana plants in the backyard, while the Marcoses continue to run scot-free, and even hold public office.

The Americans seem to be the most vocal in criticizing People Power II. They should talk. The day Ms Macapagal was sworn in, Americans were swearing in President George W. Bush also under a cloud of controversy. Protesters lined Washington's streets on the day of the inaugural with placards that read "Hail to the Thief!" and "Selected, not Elected." Bush got fewer popular votes than Al Gore, but he won because the United States uses the electoral college—a several hundred men and women casting the final votes to select a new president. What would our foreign experts say if we disputed Bush's presidency by quoting from Erap's latest petition: "People Power of the powerful is not a substitute for voter power"?

Democratic principles are absolute, but democratic systems vary, and continue to evolve. We use a presidential system modeled after the United States, where the only constitutional way you can get rid of a president is through a long drawn-out system of impeachment. Most countries in the world are parliamentary, its members able to vote out the prime minister on what may seem to be the flimsiest of reasons—indecisiveness, politically incorrect statements and, yes, hints of a scandal. I say "hint" because most of the time, political leaders have enough sense to step down when they realize a scandal, even if unproven, has tainted their leadership.

Most countries with parliaments are quite stable, prime ministers usually able to serve out their full terms. But you also have functioning democracies that can send their prime ministers packing after a few months in office. Italy had so many prime ministers that I gave up counting from a printed list. Limiting ourselves to the last 10 years, we find that Italy had nine governments rise and fall. Similarly, Japan had eight prime ministers during that period, including one who served only a few months, drummed out of office because of alleged links—note alleged links—to a financial scandal.

We don't hear the Western media accusing the Italian and Japanese parliaments of being too hasty with changing their leaders. Members of parliament are respectable, unlike, I guess, the crowds at Edsa and our city plazas.

One foreign commentator, I can't remember which one, did admit he felt a bit uncomfortable because the "mobs" at Edsa were so terribly polite. That was not accidental. The commentator probably couldn't understand the rally marshals' reminders, barked out in Filipino, to be disciplined, to give way, to resist the taunting of "pro-Erap"' hired hacks.

We harp about the manipulation of due process precisely because we respect the rule of law so much and because we know only too well how humanly frail the democratic institutions are. That's why we poked fun at the legal gobbledygook and antics during the impeachment trials but listened intently to the proceedings even as we cooked and ate and cleaned house and did our homework and our columns and well, you know what else you did. Now we're at fault because we went one step further and took democracy out to the streets. Maybe we're too serious about democracy; so much so that we're cynical about technicalities. So be it. The Filipino will not fall on a TKO.

* * *

Comments can be sent to miguel@pinoykasi.org

LETTERS

People Power: a constitutional safety valve

THERE have been many comments lately that People Power, Philippine-style may not be the right way to depose a leader. One of those who objected to it was former Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew who said that "the change of power in the Philippines was no boost for democracy because it was done outside the Constitution." I'll get to him later.

But what could be wrong with Edsa I and II? If People Power was wrong, why was it followed by many other countries: China (Tiananmen Square), Germany (Berlin Wall), Yugoslavia in very recent times, and elsewhere?

Some Filipinos who have suffered as a result of Edsa I and II say that People Power is unconstitutional. Who said so? When a country is led by evil leaders, protected, supported and propped up by equally evil men, how can the people possibly fight such a system? The only "bullet" to aim at them is People Power, which represents the combined consciences of the citizens from all walks of life.

The churches, the NGOs, the students, the laborers, the business leaders etc. voiced their outrage and their pent-up sentiments at Edsa. They were all right-thinking individuals who fought against those who abused the people.

I believe People Power is the constitutional safety valve for an oppressed and put-upon people whose leaders have betrayed their trust.

If Lee Kuan Yew is speaking out of tune, I can only surmise that Philippine-made People Power poses a great threat to Singapore, a land whose people have been silenced, regimented, engineered and herded for so long. I can understand Lee's concerns. It could happen in Singapore someday.

Is there really democracy in Singapore as we know it? Let me quote from an Associated Press item which came out in the INQUIRER last Jan. 23: "Elections are regularly held in Singapore, but critics say there is little freedom of expression and that opposition voices have little chance to be heard. Many Singaporeans feel that supporting opposition parties could cost them their standing in jobs or in school."

Lee can say what he wants to say, but there is no denying that we must do things our own way. After all, we know the real score about our country like nobody else.—**MANUEL L. MORATO, former MTRCB chair and PCSO general manager**

Wrong Serapio

PLEASE allow me to call your attention to the news report, "Erap cronies placed on BID watch list as Ricaforte flees." In the article, my husband Manuel Serapio was identified as Estrada's lawyer. This is definitely erroneous.

I do not in any way wish to give the impression that our family is distancing, much less disowning, Edward S. Serapio, the lawyer who is connected with Estrada. He is our nephew and despite the flak he is getting these days, we are very proud of his achievements. We also trust his moral judgment.

Manuel Serapio was an RTC executive judge who retired with distinction. He recently passed away and he has a son who is his namesake. It is only because of practical considerations like being placed on the airport watch list that we are constrained to ask for a correction. Besides, we support your drive and concern for accurate reporting.—**GRACE GELACIO VDA. DE SERAPIO, Suite 604 Future Point Plaza I, 112 Panay Ave., Quezon City**

We apologize for the error.—**Ed.**

No exile or immunity for Erap

THE GAINS achieved through Edsa II should be protected, defended and pursued. We should not allow the sacrifices made for the sake of truth and justice by millions of Filipinos go to waste only days after our victory.

Recent statements of former President Estrada and his cohorts should be put in a context very much like Marcos' after his downfall. The only difference is that Erap is still in the country while Marcos was in exile in Hawaii. But they are both statements from former presidents who want to return to power after their disgraceful exit. Both share the delusion of still being the president of the Philippines after being toppled by the people.

We in Erap Agco La!, having led Pangasinan's campaign for Erap's resignation, call on the new administration to deny Estrada the luxury of an exile or the privilege of immunity. He should be tried, convicted and punished for what he truly is—a criminal. He and his accomplices should pay for their crimes and suffer a fate commensurate to them.

If we allow the former President to go into exile or extend to him immunity, we will be sending a wrong signal to the people, especially the youth. A convenient and luxurious exile should not be awarded to anybody who has committed crimes against the people.

We believe in forgiveness. However, we are not talking of white lies and petty crimes. We are talking of crimes involving billions of pesos that should have gone to social services for the people. We are talking of deceit and theft by a person who was supposed to be the highest leader of the country and servant of the people.

We believe in unity and reconciliation. But more than anything else, it should be based on truth and justice. There could never be forgiveness, without restitution.—**DELMER CRUZ, secretary general, Erap Agco La!, Dagupan City**

Truly heroic service

WE are usually quick to complain and slow to praise, so we would like to extend our grateful appreciation and sincere praise for the Filipino Chinese Youth Volunteer Fire Department Inc.

On Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2001, a fire broke out at the Ionics Circuits Inc. Building next door to our beauty salon. The fire started at 7:30 a.m. and the Makati Fire Brigade responded.

The Filipino Chinese Youth Volunteer Fire Department Inc. arrived soon thereafter and immediately took control of the situation. We witnessed the group's decisive and efficient handling of a potentially destructive fire. We were impressed with its members' dedication and commitment as a volunteer force. Their performance filled us with a sense of calm and security.

We commend the volunteers who risk so much to serve without any financial gain. Theirs is truly a selfless act of heroism and we thank them!—**TINETTE OZAMIZ PUYAT, Makati City**

A believer in waste segregation

IN HIS commentary, "Mixing politics and garbage" last Jan. 31, Bernardo V. Lopez trashed our proposed simplified education campaign on segregation, saying "it had no sincerity or brains behind it."

Allow me to state our case.

Narda Camacho's idea of segregating household waste into many categories is viable in places where the people are already educated and fully supportive of the idea of segregation such as the United States. But in a country like the Philippines, where most of the citizens have yet to be converted to the program, we believed it was wiser and more practical to resort to a simple two-step segregation. This calls for segregating and collecting waste into two: (a) compostable, which can be used as fertilizer, and (b) recyclable and all waste residues, which are further segregated in recycling centers. This is designed to make the education process simple but this is definitely not the end of our effort. If this was a "brainless" idea, Lopez would have to blame the Mother Earth Society as well because it was this hardworking group that originally proposed it. Incidentally, Interior Secretary Joey Lina, Mayors Lito Atienza of Manila, Benhur Abalos of Mandaluyong, Ben de Guzman of Davao City and Tobias Tiangco of Navotas supported this "brainless" plan as well.

Unknown perhaps to Lopez, I was one of the first government officials to fully embrace and push for waste segregation, recycling and composting. I made the program a basic part of the government's solid waste management plan. As a result of my belief and commitment to segregation, I dropped one of two planned landfill facilities for Metro Manila. The Pro-Environment Consortium submitted the lowest bid for the planned single facility. Moreover, I worked to allocate P700 million for waste segregation in the 2001 budget. Incidentally, Camacho failed to mention that the P450,000 seed money for the Payatas scavengers came from the Flagship Office.

I have been working very closely with many NGOs in support of the vision and objectives of the Zero Basura Philippines Movement. Our movement includes Mother Earth, Linis Ganda, Earth Society, Artists for the Environment, Recycling Movement, Environmental Broadcast Circle, Miriam-PEACE, Clean and Green, Sagip Pasig Movement and Ecolennum.

Records will show that I actively solicited the support of paper, plastics, bottle, aluminum and steel manufacturers for the recycling campaign. Camacho knows very well that I used the clout of my office to convince these groups to buy more recyclable materials and to pay the vendors on time.

Although I am no longer in government service, I will continue to work to pursue the objectives of the Zero Basura Philippines, of which I am the chair.—**ROBERT AVENTAJADO**

Baseless rumors and unfair accusations

DEAN Jorge Bocobo has left us Ombudsman workhorses genuinely befuddled. (PDI, 1/29/01) No big fish, he says. Perhaps he can tell us what underwater denizens are the many big shots prosecuted by our office.

Can Imelda Marcos, whose conviction we secured until the Supreme Court en banc reversed its decision, and practically all the big-name Marcos cronies besides be called small fish? And here's a sampling of tadpoles we ordered prosecuted: former Vice President Salvador Laurel, and then incumbent Cabinet members Ronaldo Puno and Hilarion Ramiro as well as PNP Chief Roberto Lastimoso.

"Rumors about nocturnal visits by (the ombudsman) to Polk Street should be verified," Bocobo slyly says, vilifying rather than prescribing some preventive actions. Verification in what prudent media people did recently when they called the ombudsman to ask if, as a text message claimed, he was at that precise moment anywhere near Polk Street. The ombudsman happened to be in the thick of the UP Law Class 1957 reunion at the Heritage Hotel with his classmates like Justices Mendoza and Bellosillo. But what if our chief was at home resting?

"Derelict Ombudsman…dismal Ombudsman record," Bocobo says. Oh please. We keep on pushing our people to produce more and better, but not as a concession to mediocrity. Five years under the present administration of the ombudsman show 55,000 criminal and administrative cases disposed of after investigation and adjudication, 24,000 more than all the cases disposed of in the past. Backlog is virtually a thing of the past in this corner of the bureaucracy.

Finally, where in the World Bank report does it say that our office was the cause of failure of the anti-graft campaign? The closest is the WB recommendation for "merging (of) the PCAGC (Presidential Commission Against Graft and Corruption) with the Office of the Ombudsman, and strengthening (of) the latter's capacity." The reference clearly was to the overlapping of functions and the miserable budgetary allocation of our office which gets a measly .0067 percent of the national budget.

Baseless rumors and unfounded accusations are the last things we need at this time when our people need to believe that our investigations will achieve their ends.—**ANDREW F. AMMUYUTAN, director IV, Office of the Ombudsman, Old Nawasa Bldg., 176 Arroceros St., Manila**

The WORLD

MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

Sharon trounces Barak in a landslide triumph

JERUSALEM—Arch-hawk Ariel Sharon stormed to an unprecedented landslide Israeli election win Tuesday over Prime Minister Ehud Barak, who announced his resignation as Labor leader and MP after suffering a massive voter backlash over months of bloodletting in the region.

A euphoric Sharon trounced a humiliated Barak by around 24 points in a stunning turnaround for the 72-year-old former general who was almost written off because of his role in the bloody 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

In his victory speech in front of hundreds of supporters, the Likud party leader set the blueprint for his new government's policy with a call for the Palestinians to return to the path of peace and his political foes to rally behind him.

"Citizens, today the state of Israel has embarked on a new path of security and harmony," he said.

Barak, who took office 19 months ago with bold pledges of peace, was abandoned by even his traditional supporters, particularly in the Arab community, over the deadly Israeli-Palestinian violence that has gripped the region for more than four months.

After only 19 months in power, Barak's announcement that he would stand down as Labor leader set in train a likely battle for the post among some of his most bitter rivals in the party.

"I intend to quit my post as MP and party leader once the new government is formed," he told despondent party supporters, his wife Nava by his side. "The voters have made their decision and I respect the democratic verdict."

The special election for prime minister was triggered by Barak's resignation from the post in December, his government crippled by a wave of Israeli-Palestinian violence that has cost almost 400 lives and the collapse of peace talks.

"The Israelis have said loud and clear today two basic things: One, we definitely want very, very much to have peace, but this is not the way to get peace, the Barak way is not the way," Likud MP Limor Livnat said.

Sharon's supporters, gathered at the Tel Aviv exhibition center, exploded with joy, dancing and hugging one other, after the announcement shortly after polls closed across the country at 10 p.m.

"I call on the Palestinians to cast off the path of violence and return to the path of dialogue to resolve the differences between us," Sharon said in his victory speech, vowing again to keep Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty for the Jewish people forever.

US President George W. Bush was swift to congratulate Sharon but other world and regional leaders expressed caution, if not outright concern.

"The president told Prime Minister-elect Sharon he looked forward to working with him, especially with regard to advancing peace and stability in the region," White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer said in a statement.

Even before the results were known, Secretary of State Colin Powell delivered a passionate plea for calm.

"We want to . . . persuade all of the parties to the conflict that during this very, very delicate time immediately following the election, we do nothing and the leaders in the region do everything to make sure that violence doesn't start to swell up," Powell said.

Palestinians said they would negotiate with Sharon, but added that he would have to divert from the hard line taken during the election campaign for talks to work.

"We respect the choice of the Israeli people and we hope for the continuation of the peace process," Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said.

Palestinian Cabinet secretary Ahmed Abdel Rahman, however, cautioned that Sharon's policies presented during his campaign did not represent a basis for talks between the two sides.

In a sign of deep disenchantment with both candidates, the turnout rate was at a record low of 62 percent, down sharply from the May 1999 election that brought Barak to power in a landslide over right-wing Benjamin Netanyahu.

While Barak had denounced his rival as an "extremist," bluntly saying Israelis had to choose between war and peace, the "Bulldozer" Sharon appealed to the electorate with a pledge to preserve Jerusalem forever under Israeli sovereignty.

Sharon has 45 days to form a government following the official publication of the election results due by Feb. 14. *AFP*

What about the peace effort?

SHARON

By Dan Perry

JERUSALEM—Ariel Sharon sent two messages in his victory speech Wednesday: He is willing to negotiate with the Palestinians, but he expects them to give as good as they get and match Israeli compromises with some of their own.

The Palestinians' chief negotiator Saeb Erekat countered that any talks would have to resume where they broke off under the defeated Ehud Barak—meaning Sharon would have to adopt positions he has bitterly opposed. "We cannot go back to point zero," Erekat said.

That would be "a recipe for war," he added.

This first blush of rhetoric sketched out the gap—if not impasse—that would have to be resolved before any progress can be made.

Barak's offer to the Palestinians—which was rejected as too little—included a state in 95 percent of the West Bank and Gaza, a share of Jerusalem and the dismantling of dozens of settlements. The Palestinians have refused to soften their demands that millions of Palestinian refugees be allowed to return to Israel and that they be given control over a contested holy site.

A peace deal, even under Barak's terms, would contradict bedrock positions the hawkish Sharon has held for decades.

The best hope for somehow restarting the process would appear to be the creation of a national unity government with Barak's Labor Party. Barak said Tuesday he would step down as the party's leader, and its elder statesman Shimon Peres—a possible replacement—favors seeking common ground with Sharon.

Without Labor, Sharon's time in office could be short. *AP*

India cities vulnerable to quakes, says official

AHMADABAD, India—Many Indian cities are highly vulnerable to earthquakes such as the one that devastated parts of a western state because the government has failed to control profit-hungry construction companies, an official said Tuesday.

"Let us admit it. Our system of government has had some weaknesses," said Federal Urban Development Minister Jagmohan. "Practically all the cities in India today are in the grip of the land and building mafia."

Jagmohan said construction companies and architects had committed "serious lapses" in safety and that state governments had failed to tighten building codes despite a study a year and a half ago that found many areas vulnerable.

Jagmohan discussed quake reconstruction Tuesday with Chief Minister Keshubhai Patel of Gujarat, the state worst affected by the Jan. 26 earthquake.

The 7.7-magnitude quake killed more than 17,000 people, and the toll is expected to rise to 30,000, state Home Minister Haren Pandya said. About 34 million of the state's 45 million people were affected.

Jagmohan said authorities would need to begin from scratch in rebuilding the badly hit towns of Bhuj, Anjar and Bhachau, including even the layout of roads.

"Let us replan these towns completely," he said.

In Bhuj, a town of 150,000, a few stores opened or business Tuesday for the first time since the disaster struck.

About 300 people left homeless by the earthquake demonstrated for food and shelter and accused the state's ruling BJP government of favoring its supporters in the distribution of relief.

"We want shelter and food, not politics," the demonstrators shouted during the noisy protest outside the office of Anil Mukim, the government administrator for the hardest-hit Kutch district.

Such protests have become common as aid workers struggle to coordinate local and foreign relief goods pouring into this devastated region.

India's prime minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, acknowledged Tuesday that the country was not ready for the disaster.

"We were not prepared to face the aftermath of the earthquake. The truth is that we are not ready to face any disaster. If there is a fire, it's not certain whether we'll have water to put it out," he said.

State officials said homeless villagers would be employed to help rebuild the quake-ravaged countryside in an extensive food-for-work program.

Authorities fear a mass exodus from the region if relief measures are not put in place soon. Free food being distributed to more than 30 million affected people is likely to end soon.

"After one more round of free grain distribution, there will be a food-for-work program," said P.K. Lahiri, a state official. *AP*

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CEBU DAILY NEWS
AN AFFILIATE OF THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

CEBU Daily News made history in the community press by coming out with its fourth EXTRA, an eight-page full-color afternoon edition to capture the final gusts of the whirlwind called People Power 2.

The Jan. 20 issue headlined "Hail Glory" capped continuous coverage of the impeachment trial and the indignation it set off in Cebu, an opposition bailiwick.

"The special edition illustrates for me," said publisher Eileen Mangubat, "the value of a newspaper beyond the ink and paper on which it is printed."

"In your hands, for a fraction of its real price, is a tangible piece of history. Every day a newspaper has a duty to add to that public wealth."

For the past three years, CDN has been growing and gaining strength in its role as a chronicler of significant event and issues affecting Cebu.

This role has been aided by technical advances that speed up work. Digital photography, computerized operations from the newsroom to the printing plant, and starting this year, expanded Solna offset press units allow rapid production of top-quality newspaper copies and more color capacity.

In reporting the news, CDN places a premium on its independence as a paper. Readers know the difference between a story told with a political agenda and reports that shine a bright, unsparing light on facts. Like Siloy, CDN's beloved bird mascot, the paper thrives on free flight and an enterprising spirit.

As CDN marks its 3rd anniversary today, Inquirer Cebu Inc. president Dennis O. Valdes, in his annual letter to readers, said he was happy to report several significant improvement in the way CDN would serve the news and information needs of Cebu and its outlying neighbors.

First was the appointment last December of Ms Mangubat as publisher. Her role goes beyond ensuring credible and balanced news on a day-to-day basis. She is now tasked with the long-term development of the organization – to make sure CDN becomes the best newspaper in Cebu, he said. Succeeding Ms Mangubat as Editor in Chief is Thea Riñen who will be expanding the core group of editors to strengthen CDN's news delivery efforts.

Sometime this year, the website, www.cebudailynews.com.ph, will be acquired and managed by Inq7 Interactive. Inq7 is the joint venture between Inquirer and GMA Network, creating an online center for all Philippine news. Already, the main website, www.inquirer.net, is the 11th Most Visited News Website in the world. As part of Inq7, CDN can deliver news to Cebuano Overseas Foreign Workers and emigrants in one central news site that aggregates all Philippine news.

"All these changes come at a particularly important juncture in Philippine media history," said Valdes.

"We are at a point where the Estrada administration has just been replaced, thanks to People Power 2. The previous administration was one whose relationship with media will be studied by historians for years to come. Not only did Mr. Estrada and/or his cohorts organize a boycott of a major newspaper, but they bullied another until the owners were forced to sell to a known crony. On the broadcast side, there were persistent rumors of a major network's news group being asked by a presidential relative to tone down negative coverage."

"Despite the previous administration's frontal assault on media, most Filipinos will agree that media played a strong, pivotal role in the coverage of the Impeachment Trial and in the EDSA revolution that followed. Media certainly played a key part in shaping public opinion that led to the downfall of the Estrada administration.

"How does all this figure at a time when we are leading up to national and local elections in May? This is a key election, considering that the political futures of both the current and ex-presidents are at stake.

"If President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo can muster the electoral support she needs, then she will consolidate her power and perhaps gain political stability through 2004. On the other hand, if Mr. Estrada's allies are able to gain the political majority, they may stave off imprisonment or punishment for him and become a valid opposition force.

"With so much at stake, it is vital that the role of media in the coming elections be examined. We in the Cebu Daily News, like our sister publication, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, believe that the first function of media is to deliver fair, balanced, credible news. We will not take sides in the coming political elections.

Readers, deserve an independent newspaper, not linked to any political family, which can be relied upon to give you the news from an objective point of view. Last year, I wrote that our vision for CDN is that it be "a newspaper for Cebuanos." This year, especially during these coming elections, we will truly show you, the Cebuano reader, how CDN is a newspaper that publishes news *for* the Cebuano."

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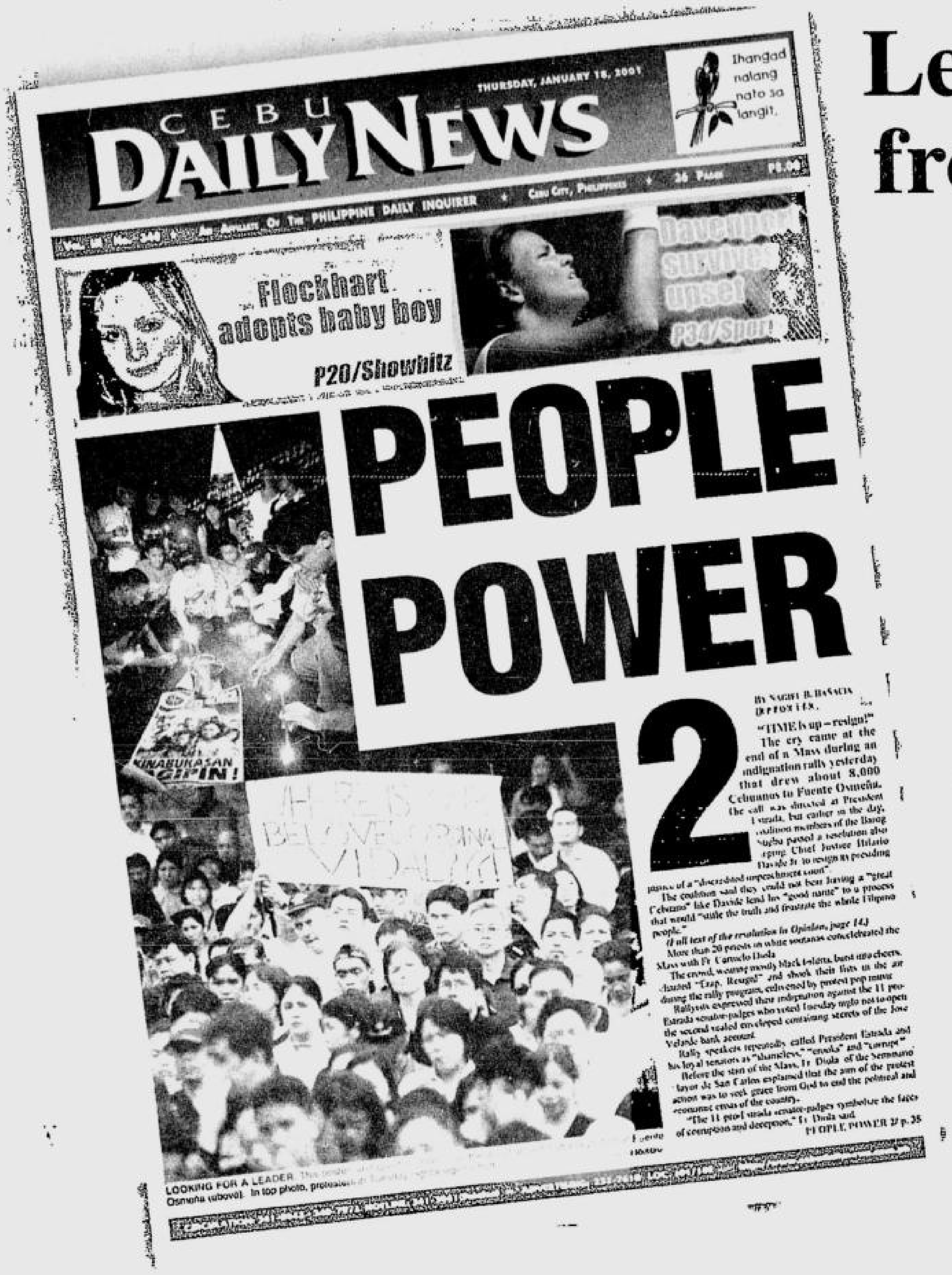

CEBU DAILY NEWS

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— **Former congressman Celestino Martinez Jr.**

"The paper doesn't hold its punches. You don't pay obeisance to any personality. CDN is brutally frank. Although it's painful at times, you provide us a wakeup call."

— **Ribomapil Holganza Sr.**, political consultant of Cebu City Mayor Alvin Garcia

"Cebu Daily News has become a big part of our company in providing valuable clients maximum marketing exposure of their advertising investments. Your continuing increase in readership is proof that CDN is the medium to get our message through to our market. It was a wise decision for us.

— **Inier Loyola Candor,** Events Media

"Eye-catching. It stand out because of its quality printing. Pictures come alive and colors are vivid. CDN also has accurate and fearless news, clean an creative layouts and a trendy lifestyle section."

— **Aissa de la Cruz,** PR Manager, Cebu Plaza Hotel

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Canada sets formal ties with North Korea

OTTAWA—Canada announced Tuesday it has established diplomatic relations with North Korea, becoming the latest Group of Eight member nation to extend diplomatic ties to the Stalinist state.

The announcement follows Canada's decision in July to formally recognize the state as a member of the international community.

Commenting on the opening of ties, Prime Minister Jean Chretien said the move stems from the fact that "the situation has changed there and we have come to the conclusion that dialogue is better than isolation."

Canada's Foreign Minister John Manley said earlier that "establishing diplomatic relations will create formal channels through which Canada and the DPRK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) can further enhance communications and cooperation and develop a deeper understanding of each other."

North Korea confirmed Tuesday that it had established diplomatic relations with Canada.

Canada's move is another step forward in North Korea's gradual diplomatic opening, which has seen Pyongyang open ties with a string of countries as well as hold a historic summit with South Korea in June.

G8 industrialized nations Russia, Italy and Britain have already extended diplomatic ties to North Korea, and Germany is in the process of doing so. Some 40 other nations, including Australia, Belgium, Denmark, India and the Philippines, have also extended diplomatic ties to North Korea.

The North has also offered to open ties with other European nations and its arch-enemy the United States, seen as the top prize of its diplomatic coming-out campaign.

But the two sides are still far apart on the communist state's missile program, and alleged proliferation of weapons and support for terrorism.

When Canada announced it recognized North Korea on July 26 following a meeting between then-Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy and his North Korean counterpart Paek Nam-Sun, the two nations began technical discussions leading to the establishment of diplomatic relations.

"At this juncture, Canada believes that closer relations with Pyongyang is the best way to contribute to security, non-proliferation and humanitarian challenges in the region," Manley said in a statement.

Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Marie Christine Lilkoff said "Canada's (North Korean) diplomatic representation will be from our Embassy in Beijing."

She said the substance of the bilateral relationship is still "modest," adding that Canada hopes the "contents of the relationship will grow quickly, but for now we do not need a resident Embassy." *AFP*

SE Asia outlook gray, says Lee

SINGAPORE—Singapore elder statesman Lee Kuan Yew predicted a "gray outlook" for Southeast Asia, pointing to an increasing presence of conservative Islam in Malaysia and Indonesia and political turmoil in Thailand and the Philippines.

In a speech to a community club late Tuesday, Lee said that Indonesia was in the "midst of political crisis" and that "political Islam has become a key player in Indonesia's governance."

He mentioned the parliamentary investigation of alleged "financial irregularities" by Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid.

Lee said "there are signs of increasing Islamic religiosity" in Malaysia, pointing to "segregated counters in supermarkets" in two Malaysian states.

"There has also been talk about closing karaoke bars," Lee said. "Strict orthodoxy in women's dress is more evident."

Lee, the 77-year-old founder of modern Singapore, ruled the Southeast Asian city state with a firm grip from independence in 1965 until 1990, when he resigned as prime minister. Today, he still wields considerable influence under the title of senior minister, and his views are often consulted by leaders around the world.

He said delegates at this year's World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, were more interested in China, Taiwan, Japan and Korea than Southeast Asia, but that they saw Singapore as being above political turmoil in the region. *AP*

'Millennium ancestor' bones found

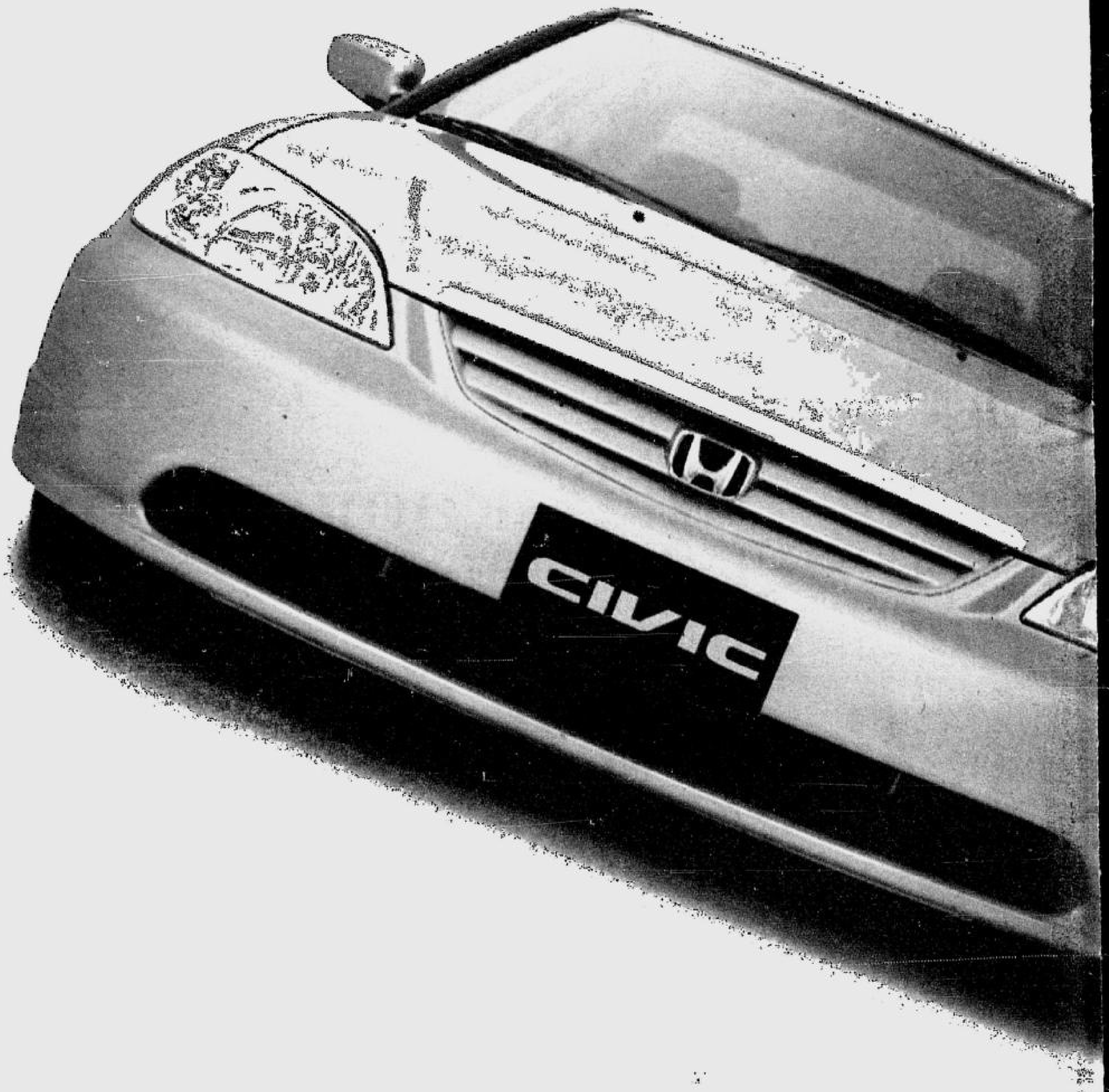
PARIS—Researchers introduced to the world on Tuesday what they believe is man's oldest known ancestor, more human-like than Lucy and, at 6 million years, nearly twice her age—a finding bound to fuel controversy over the origins of man.

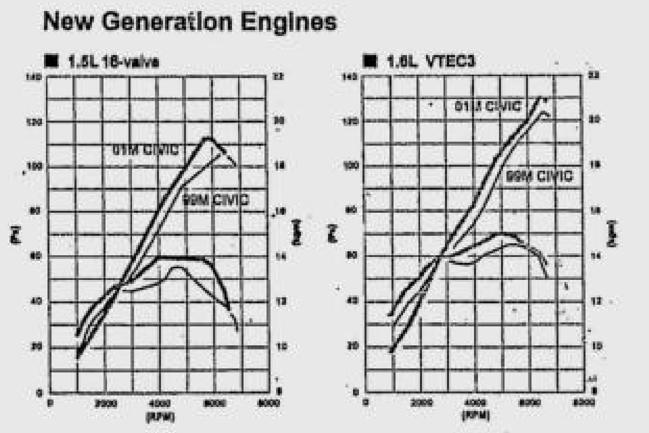
For the French-led team that unearthed the 12 bones and teeth in central Kenya late last year, the findings suggest that australopithecines like Lucy are not in the direct line of human ancestry, the researchers said.

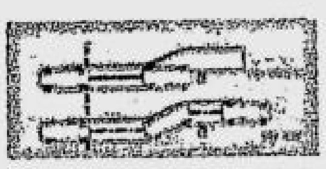
The findings were presented at a news conference at the prestigious College de France, which funded the work. They are to be published later this month in France's "Les Comptes-rendus de l'Academie des Sciences" when the Millennium Ancestor, as it is now dubbed, will be given a scientific name.

The group contends that the jaws, teeth, arm, hand and leg bones show that their Millennium Ancestor is the earliest known bipedal, or upright, hominid—and likely a direct descendant of man. The previously oldest hominid remains, discovered in Aramis, Ethiopia, were dated at 4.5 million years.

The researchers also say their fossils, found in the Lukeino Formation of the Rift Valley, show that Lucy, a 3.2 million-year-old hominid discovered in Ethiopia in 1974, is from a lateral branch in the map of human evolution, as some have long contended. *AP*







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Milosevic faces arrest, war crimes trial

BELGRADE—Increasingly it seems less a case of whether Slobodan Milosevic will stand trial and more a case of when, where and for what.

The net is tightening around the former Yugoslav president, less than four months after a popular revolt forced him to acknowledge electoral defeat and step down from office.

Over the past week, he has been put under 24-hour police surveillance. And faced with the possible loss of more than $100 million in financial aid from the United States, the new pro-democracy leadership of impoverished Yugoslavia is looking hard at extraditing Milosevic to stand trial at the UN war crimes tribunal at The Hague, Netherlands.

The United States has told Belgrade it must start cooperating with The Hague court by the end of March, or risk losing the vital financial aid.

But most new Yugoslav leaders remain opposed to the idea of extradition, with some arguing that the law does not foresee delivering a citizen to a foreign court. An overwhelming fear is that extradition would make a martyr out of Milosevic in the eyes of many Serbs who consider the court an anti-Serb instrument of the West, and who still fault the West for the 1999 Nato bombing of Yugoslavia that forced Milosevic to give up Kosovo.

Still, with the former leader accused of a wide range of wrongdoing beyond his alleged involvement in Kosovo atrocities, the dilemma is not whether he should stand trial. The question is should he be tried at home or in The Hague, and should the charges be corruption, complicity in political assassinations and abductions during his 13-year tenure, alleged atrocities in Kosovo, or all.

One solution being pushed in Belgrade is a trial within the country on all charges, including those raised by the UN tribunal and with tribunal input.

"Milosevic's place is in jail," says Interior Minister Zoran Zivkovic. "It would be just for him to stand trial here because he committed all those crimes here."

"Our prosecutor should accept The Hague's indictment, add the local charges, and trigger the proceedings in front of our courts," Zivkovic said. "The war crimes definitely existed . . . and there is no dilemma who is responsible: Milosevic as the former supreme commander."

During her visit to Belgrade last month, chief UN prosecutor Carla del Ponte insisted that The Hague tribunal has priority over local Yugoslav courts and that Milosevic must be extradited. New Yugoslav leaders insisted that the country's Constitution bans extradition of local citizens.

But Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic of Serbia, the dominant Yugoslav republic, suggests that Washington, previously a vehement supporter of Milosevic's extradition, is now amenable to compromise. *AP*

50,000 rally for Wahid

SURABAYA, Indonesia—Police and troops fired warning shots and tear gas when an estimated 50,000 people choked the streets of Indonesia's second largest city in protest against attempts to impeach President Abdurrahman Wahid for corruption.

In an ominous turn for Indonesia's political crisis, many demanded death for those wanting to unseat Wahid. Thousands, many with sickles and knives, besieged the local legislature of Wahid's home province of East Java, where he is revered not only as the nation's leader but also as a Muslim cleric.

Another mob attacked the office of Golkar, the party of former dictator Suharto and a major force against Wahid. At least three police officers and several protesters were injured in a series of pitched battles, witnesses said.

At one stage police fled after they were were overwhelmed by the protesters, but security forces later retook the building. Several cars were torched by rampaging mobs.

Elsewhere protesters burned effigies of Wahid's rivals. Others carried banners reading: "If Wahid falls, the country will be destroyed."

Passions ran high within the ranks of demonstrators, who have been angered by attempts to oust Wahid after only 15 months in office. *AP*

Cockroach employed vs AIDS

BEIJING—Chinese scientists say chemical components found in cockroaches have a "similar effectiveness" in the treatment of AIDS as the widely used American drug AZT, state press reported Wednesday.

Chinese scientists at the Yunnan Medical College have extracted a group of chemical elements from cockroaches, including the special allergic material alfatoxin and are testing the effectiveness of the compounds in combating AIDS, Xinhua news agency said.

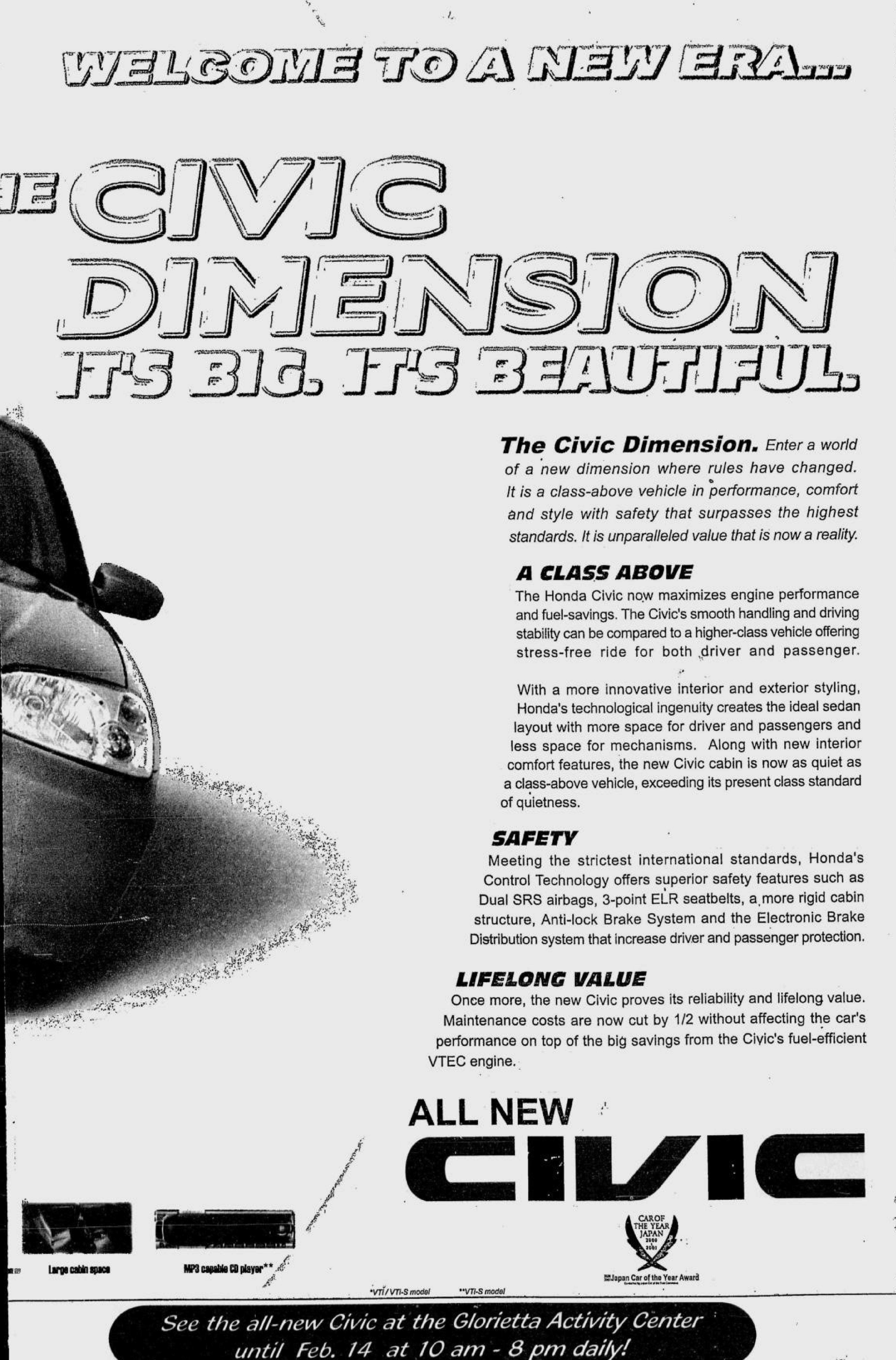
"Lab experiments have shown that the compound has similar effectiveness as AZT, a widely used AIDS drug developed by American researchers, but has fewer side affects," the report said.

However, it warned that clinical trials have yet to reach a final conclusion.

Li Shunan, dean of Pharmacology Department of the college, has verified in lab trials that a chemical compound consisting of an amino acid and a polysaccharide is effective in killing the AIDS virus, the report said.

Research into the effectiveness of cockroach compounds originated from the practices of an ethnic minority in Yunnan province in southwestern China that has used cockroaches to cure open wounds since ancient times.

Li has spent 20 years on the unprecedented research. He has also discovered that cockroach chemicals can also cure heart disease, it said. *AFP*



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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

ROUNDUP

Highway secured

CABANATUAN CITY—The mountain highway between San Jose City in Nueva Ecija and Dalton Pass in Sta. Fe, Nueva Vizcaya, is now relatively safe for travelers and traders. This was assured by Police Supt. Aurelio Hiteroza, Nueva Ecija police director, who announced that soldiers and policemen have been patrolling the 38-kilometer highway. Army soldiers patrol the Maharlika Highway from Digdig, Carranglan, Nueva Ecija to Dalton Pass in Nueva Vizcaya, while Nueva Ecija policemen take care of the rest of the highway up to San Jose City. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Land donated to school

BALANGA CITY—Landowners donated a 15-hectare land in Abucay town to the Colegio de San Juan de Letran for its expansion program to help the town in its bid to become Bataan's education center. The donors—couple Lydia and Nicanor Soriano, Ana Santiago and Bataan Gov. Leonardo Roman and wife Menchu—turned over the land titles during the groundbreaking ceremony on Saturday. Letran College-Bataan will start operation next year. *Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

New movement formed

BAGUIO CITY—Student leaders in Northern Luzon formed a new movement called the People Power Youth Movement that replaced the Get Rid of Erap Now (GEN X) movement. Jose Voltaire Tupaz, spokesperson of the People Power Youth Movement, said the new group intends to keep the spirit of the First Quarter Storm and People Power alive in the hearts and minds of the youth. *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Elders' magna carta passed

NAGA CITY—The Magna Carta for Older Persons, which penalizes maltreatment of senior citizens, has been passed at the House and submitted to the Senate, said Camarines Sur Rep. Salvio Fortuno. The proposed law imposes a penalty of up to P200,000 and imprisonment of at least six months but not more than two years. Fortuno said the Magna Carta orders the Office of the Senior Citizens' Affairs, DSWD, local and other government agencies to build homes for the elderly who have no families or are disabled. *Juan Escandor, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Detainee hangs self

CABANATUAN CITY—A detainee of the National Bureau of Investigation here was believed to have hung himself inside the bureau's detention cell because of remorse for the crime he was accused of. Arnold Valerio, 23, of San Antonio town told lawyer Sixto Burgos, NBI chief here, that he killed one Felipe Galvez when he robbed his house in November last year. Burgos said Valerio left no suicide note. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

1 dead in car crash

LEGAZPI CITY—One died and four others were seriously injured when the car they were riding in hit a coconut tree at Barangay Gadgan, Sipocot, Camarines Sur, at dawn Saturday. Dead on arrival at the Mother Seton Hospital in Naga City was Edison Satimbra of Barangay Cruzada here. Seriously injured were Remedios Danz, Reyner Garcia, Josephine Danz and Lerma del Monte. Police said the victims were aboard a Mitsubishi Adventure wagon being driven by Satimbra when the vehicle lost its brake and hit the tree. *Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Steps vs child labor taken

DAET, Camarines Norte—The provincial council here has authorized Gov. Emmanuel B. Pimentel to adopt a program supporting the International Labor Organization in its drive to eliminate child labor. The program aims to promote conditions to enable states to regulate, restrict and prohibit child labor. The ILO has embarked on a multilateral cooperation to combat child labor in small-scale mining in Labo, Jose Panganiban and Paracale towns here. *Juan Escandor, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila Hi 31° Lo 21°	Baguio Hi 24° Lo 13°	Tuguegarao Hi 31° Lo 21°	Laoag Hi 32° Lo 21°
Clark Zone Hi 31° Lo 21°	Tagaytay Hi 28° Lo 18°	Legazpi Hi 30° Lo 24°	Calapan Hi 31° Lo 23°
Bacolod Hi 31° Lo 24°	Roxas Hi 31° Lo 25°	Cebu Hi 31° Lo 25°	Tacloban Hi 30° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos Hi 30° Lo 23°	Zamboanga Hi 30° Lo 24°	Cagayan de Oro Hi 32° Lo 22°	Davao Hi 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

PDI BUREAUS

Northern Luzon Bureau
Central Luzon Desk
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop,
Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail:
inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

Southern Luzon Bureau
Barangay 34 (Oro site),
Legazpi City
Tel. No . (052) 480-8099
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail:
inq_bicol@inquirer.com .ph

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479-c General Luna St.,
Davao City
Tel. No. (082) 221-7122
Fax No. (082) 227-6723
E-mail:
pdiminda@dv.weblinq.com

Pursue graft raps vs Chavit, Ilocos lawyers urge DOJ

CITY OF VIGAN—If the Department of Justice is hell-bent on pursuing the criminal cases of former President Joseph Estrada, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines in Ilocos Sur sees no reason why the DOJ would not do the same on the alleged irregularities involving Estrada's principal accuser, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

"Let us serve justice to the people of Ilocos Sur by resolving the anomalies of Governor Singson," said lawyer Jessie Vizcarra, IBP Ilocos Sur president.

The IBP earlier passed a resolution urging swift and appropriate action against the alleged irregularities committed by Singson based on the findings of the Commission on Audit.

The group is asking the government to act on transactions and operations of the provincial government from 1996 to 1999 involving P1.2 billion in government funds.

Assistant Chief State Prosecutor Nilo Mariano told the IBP-Ilocos Sur that the resolution was already endorsed to the anti-graft coordinating council of the DOJ and COA for appropriate action.

"We believe that our endorsement would strengthen and back up the different investigations undertaken against the anomalies of the governor," Vizcarra said.

The local IBP is also seeking the disclosure of the findings of the National Bureau of Investigation's probe into Singson's alleged irregular transactions on behalf of the provincial government last year.

The IBP also demanded to know the development of the cases against Singson at the Office of the Ombudsman.

Among the questionable projects of the provincial government are the construction of multimillion-peso plants such as a multiline food processing plant, a tomato paste manufacturing plant and flue-curing barns in different towns of Ilocos Sur.

The IBP's move has received support from various sectors and organizations in Ilocos Sur, including the Social Action Commission (SAC), an umbrella organization of the Catholic Church.

"The people wanted to know the bottom of all these accusations against the governor," SAC president Gilbert Arce said.

He cited the P130 million from tobacco excise taxes that Singson testified that he gave the ousted president.

"The lowly tobacco growers are the biggest losers if the money would not be returned," Arce said.

Singson earlier assured that the fund would be returned to the farmers through Estrada's frozen assets.

Shortly after exposing alleged massive corruption in the Estrada administration, Singson said he was not seeking any immunity from suit.

He repeatedly said that he was ready to go to jail "as long as the biggest thief" goes to jail with him.

During his cross-examination at the impeachment trial, Singson said he was not asking from immunity from suit in exchange for testifying against his former bosom buddy.

He also declined offers for the government to place him under the witness protection program and be provided with government-assigned bodyguards.

"*Patay na kung patay*," he was quoted once a few days after he testified against Estrada. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

EDWIN BACASMAS

THE EDGE

Water streaming down the side of a road that cuts through a river, which gets its water supply from the Mayon Volcano do not paint the volcano's restiveness.

Chavit, Eric: Who's the real Lakas?

CITY OF VIGAN—Insisting that the rule is not the equity of the incumbent but the "equity of the impeachment," Ilocos Sur. Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson said he is the official Lakas-NUCD provincial head here and not his estranged cousin and political opponent, former Ilocos Rep. Eric Singson.

"I am the official Lakas-NUCD (leader) in the province and would be the one nominating official candidates of the party," said Governor Singson, who is a former Lapian ng Masang Pilipino top official until he parted ways with deposed President Estrada.

This was disputed, however, by Eric Singson, who said he is still the official Lakas-NUCD provincial chair and regional vice chair based on the results of the 1998 elections. He said Lakas national officials have yet to revamp the party in the province.

Eric Singson hosted last week a two-day seminar attended by Lakas leaders from the different villages in the province in preparation for the May 14 elections.

It was also in the same seminar where the provincial party approved a resolution addressed to President Macapagal-Arroyo endorsing Lakas-NUCD national president, Sen. Teofisto Guingona, as the country's Vice President.

Governor Singson said there is now a major revamp in the Lakas-NUCD as a result of the recognition given those who had contributed to the ouster of Estrada.

The Singsons faced each other for the gubernatorial post during the 1998 elections that Chavit won.

But Governor Singson had repeatedly said in many interviews that he would not be running for any post in the May 14 elections.

He anointed Ilocos Sur Vice Gov. Deogracia Victor Savellano and the governor's younger brother, Board Member Jeremias Singson, as the party's candidates for governor and vice governor.

Eric Singson would field his brother-in-law, former Narvacan Mayor Edgar Zaragoza, for governor. Zaragoza has no running mate yet but sources said Eric's camp is tapping Rafanan if he could not make it to Governor Singson's group. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Negros rebels catch another wanted man

BACOLOD CITY—The Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB) has turned over another wanted man to policemen in Talisay City, seven kilometers north of here.

Carapali Lualhati, RPA-ABB national commander, handed over George Mahinay to Supt. Mark Edison Belarma, 6th Police Mobile Group chief, and Chief Insp. Alexander Sampaga, Talisay police chief, on Feb. 6 in Barangay Concepcion, Talisay.

He said Mahinay first sent surrender feelers to the RPA-ABB before he finally surrendered to the armed group on Feb. 5, also in Barangay Concepcion.

Mahinay, a member of the Civilian Volunteer's Organization, is facing homicide charges for last year's killing of PO1 Vicente Rey Balasa in Talisay.

Mahinay was the second wanted person turned over by the RPA-ABB to authorities.

The first was Lagney Llanera who was tagged by police as public enemy No. 1 in Silay City. The RPA-ABB turned over Llanera to Supt. Ricardo de la Paz in Silay last week. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Nur tells Gloria: MNLF still a force in Mindanao

PARANG, Maguindanao—ARMM Gov. Nur Misuari urged President Macapagal-Arroyo "not to sideline" the Moro National Liberation Front as it "would be a big, big mistake."

"There could never be genuine peace and order in Mindanao without the active participation and cooperation of the MNLF," said Misuari, MNLF chair and chair of the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development.

Misuari has been complaining that the 1996 peace pact with the government has not been fully implemented.

Misuari told the staff of the Philippine National Police regional office, which celebrated its 10th anniversary on Monday that Ms Macapagal "must not forget history, not forget the fundamental rights of the people of Mindanao and not to forget our capability to induce changes in our homeland."

He did not elaborate.

Misuari said that since the signing of the peace agreement in 1996, "we are still in the lurch and we do not know what direction we are taking."

Misuari, who has been batting for the extension of the transition period before a regular, expanded autonomous government is set up, did not file his certificate of candidacy for the ARMM elections.

His deputies have been lobbying before Congress to pass a proposed bill that will establish a 10-year provisional government in the area of autonomy.

"The MNLF position is not to agree on the conduct of a plebiscite for the establishment of such (an) autonomy," he said.

The 1996 peace pact mandated that the Organic Act creating the ARMM be amended to pave the way for the expansion of the ARMM. The peace pact also stated that a plebiscite should be held first to determine how many areas will join the new region and vote for their officials.

But Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen said Congress could not act on the amending bill due to time constraints.

Congress adjourns tomorrow.

"If that is the case, (the) ARMM elections will push through as scheduled in May 2001," Dilangalen said, adding that "it would surely hurt the MNLF because Misuari did not file his candidacy."

"I don't know what will happen," Dilangalen said.

Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Erap enemies push for 'truth commission'

CEBU CITY—A leader of a broad multisectoral coalition that led mass actions in Cebu to press for the resignation of former President Joseph Estrada supports the call to set up an independent commission that would investigate cases of plunder, graft and corruption and human rights violations committed by the ousted leader.

Lawyer Gabriel Ingles, former Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Cebu City chair, said he welcomes the proposal. It will be taken up by the multisectoral assembly in a consultation to be held this month.

Ingles and other convenors of Barug Sugbo earlier presented a six-point agenda of concern to President Macapagal-Arroyo during her visit to Cebu City last week.

On top of the list is the prosecution of Estrada.

According to Ingles, the call to create an independent commission similar to the Truth Commission of South Africa and Latin America could gain support because of perceptions that government agencies that are prosecuting cases against Estrada "lack sincerity."

In the 1980s, the Argentinian and Chilean governments formed truth commissions to investigate excesses committed by members of their military juntas.

South Africa created the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to conduct wide-ranging investigations of crimes committed under the Apartheid regime.

Hundreds of protesters demonstrated in front of the office of Ombudsman Aniano Desierto on Monday to demand an explanation why the anti-graft body needed 60 days to file the plunder cases against Estrada before the Sandiganbayan.

Ingles said Desierto's track record has been placed under a cloud of doubt.

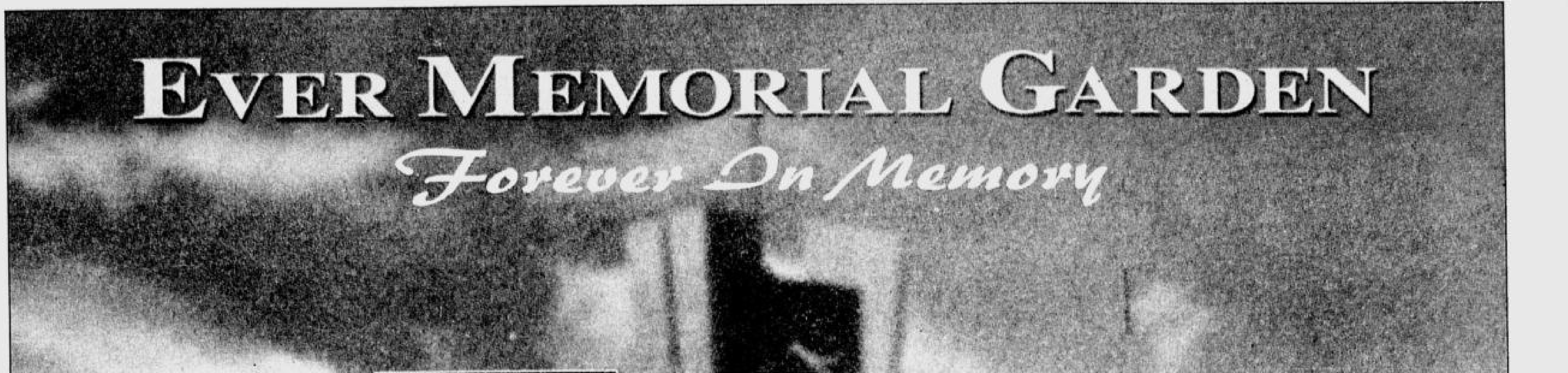
"In the past, the IBP even created a committee to review Desierto's decision to dismiss cases against the Marcoses. The review committee had found that Desierto had erred in his resolutions with respect to some cases against the family of the late President Marcos," the lawyer said.

The Barug Sugbo executive said based on recent radio and TV surveys, "the people seems to distrust Desierto."

According to Ingles, Ms Macapagal should give the idea of a Truth Commission careful study. The lawyer rejected suggestions that the Vice President head the independent body.

Ingles said the commission must be led by "independent people" like former Comelec chairperson Haydee Yorac or respected statesman and former senator, Jovito Salonga.

The Barug Sugbo convenor said politicians are "prone to commit compromises." *Malou Guanzon-Apalisok, PDI Visayas Bureau*



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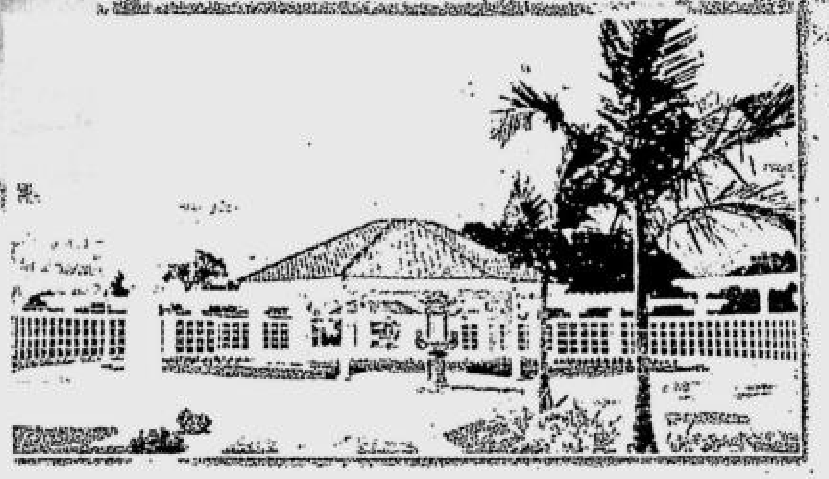

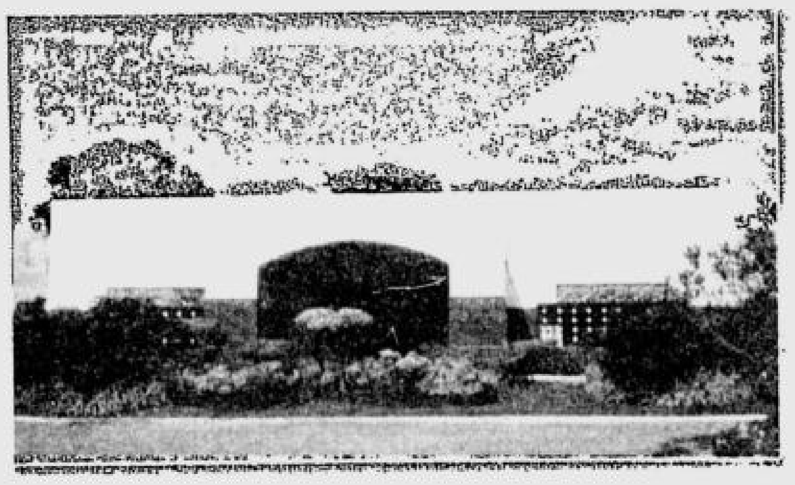

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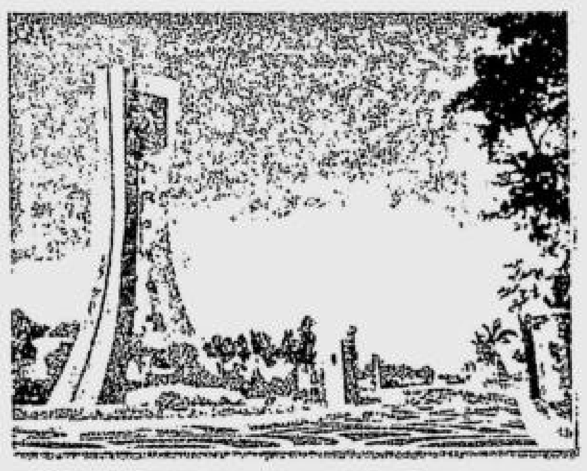

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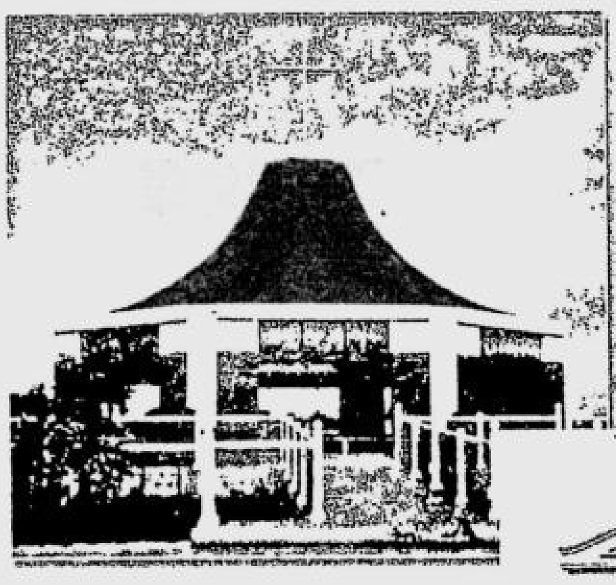

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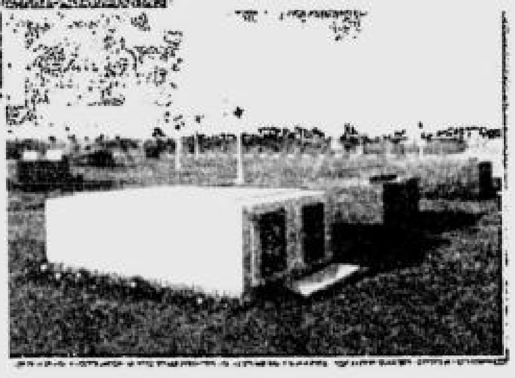

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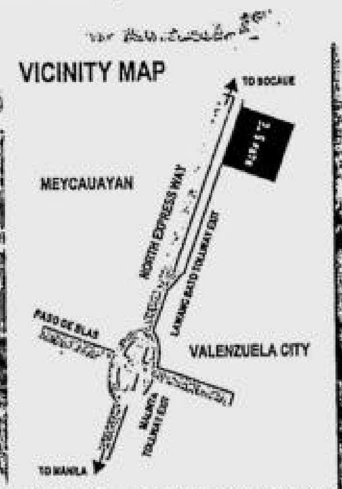
THE ESTATE AREA Privacy and elegance best describe the Estate area which highlights the family mausoleum in all its understated architectural grace and grandeur.

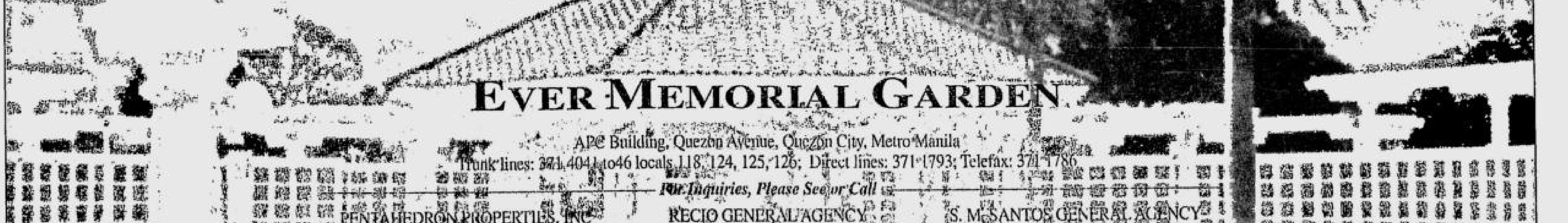
THE COLUMBARIUM AREA A first in the country, the Columbarium area provides families a more modern approach to memorialization in a refreshingly sacred sanctuary for cremated remains.

WHY IS IT WISE TO INVEST NOW BEFORE THE NEED ARISES? BUYING NOW BEFORE THE NEED ARISES:

1. Allows family members to decide under relaxed circumstances and without stress;
2. Spares family members the burden of emotional overspending at the time of great loss and sorrow;
3. Provides families optimum flexibility in payment terms without straining their budget;
4. Gives families the opportunities of realizing substantial savings and selecting appropriate memorial properties by investing now; and
5. Empowers family members to have peace of mind by making decisions together.

Ideally located along the North Luzon Expressway, and conveniently accessible through the Lawang Bato Tollway Exit, Ever Memorial Garden is only 10 minutes drive away from the Balintawak Interchange.





EVER MEMORIAL GARDEN

APC Building, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, Metro Manila
Trunk lines: 371-4041 to46 locals 118, 124, 125, 126; Direct lines: 371-1793; Telefax: 371-1786

For Inquiries, Please See or Call

PENTAHEDRON PROPERTIES, INC
Mr. Abraham Tan
Tel. Nos. 371-1789; 724-3615; 724-1714

RECIO GENERAL AGENCY
Ms. Cecille A. Recio
Tel. Nos. 932-5008; 427-0250

S. M. SANTOS GENERAL AGENCY
Mr. Dino M. Santos
Tel. Nos. 287-3114; 288-0966

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT YEAREND REPORT *A LOOK AT THE PAST...*

INVESTMENTS

- From September 1998 to December 2000, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Chairman Felicito Payumo made possible the entry of significant investment projects that brought Subic's cumulative investments to **US$3.082 billion.**
- **Some of the major new investments generated by the current SBMA administration:**

JAPANESE

Sankyo Seiki Manufacturing Co., Ltd.(Subic Techno-Park)

- One of the biggest publicly-listed corporations in Japan engaged in the production of micromotors for hard disk drives and pickups for digital video disks.
- Total committed investment of US$100 million with projected employment of 2,000-3,500 workers.

KEY INVESTMENT PROJECTS
SANKYO SEIKI MFG, LTD.
MANUFACTURER OF:
MICROMOTORS
OPTOMECHATRONICS
INVESTMENT: US$ 100 MILLION
EMPLOYMENT: 3500
CONSTRUCTION: ONGOING

- Currently constructing its manufacturing plant over 5.5 hectares to begin operations by October 2001. The area is the second biggest manufacturing facility at the Freeport, second only to Acer Phils., Inc.
- Future plans include the setting up of a software engineering center to support its production in Subic Freeport.

Sanyo Denki (Phils), Inc. (Subic Techno-Park)

- World leader in the manufacture of small precision motors, servo-motors and systems, UPS and engine generators with a global distribution network of 26 offices in over 15 countries.
- Currently operating its Subic plant over 4.3 hectares, its first production facility outside Japan.
- Commited investment of US$21 million with initial employment of 350 to increase to 1,000 at the peak of operations.
- Projected exports of Php2.5 billion a month.

Juken Sangyo (Phils.) Corporation (Subic Techno-Park)

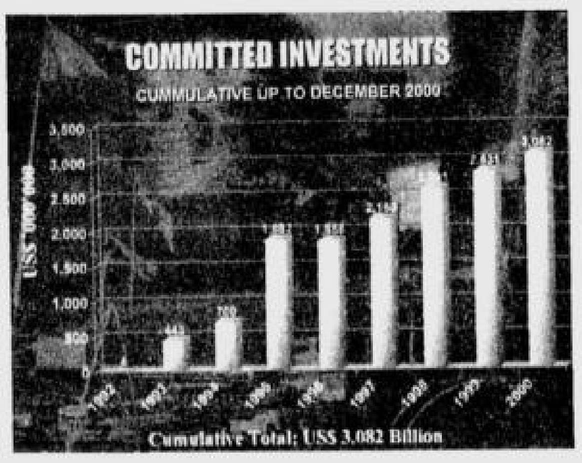
- Engaged in the manufacture of plywood, laminated veneer lumber and laminated lumber for offices and houses.
- Currently completing its building over 4.5 hectares and is scheduled to be inaugurated and begin operations in the first quarter of 2001.
- Committed investment of US$20 million with projected employment of 250-1000 workers.

MANUFACTURER OF:
WORLD-CLASS PANELS & DECORATIVE LUMBER BOARDS
JUKEN SANGYO
INVESTMENT: US$ 20 M
EMPLOYMENT: 200 - 1,000
CONSTRUCTION START: ONGOING

- Expected to contribute exports of about 600 containers a month to increase to 750 containers/mo. at the peak of operations.

TAIWANESE

The Subic Bay Development Management Corporation (SBDMC), which manages the Taiwanese Industrial Park, has started the construction of its Phase II to complete its 300-hectares area.



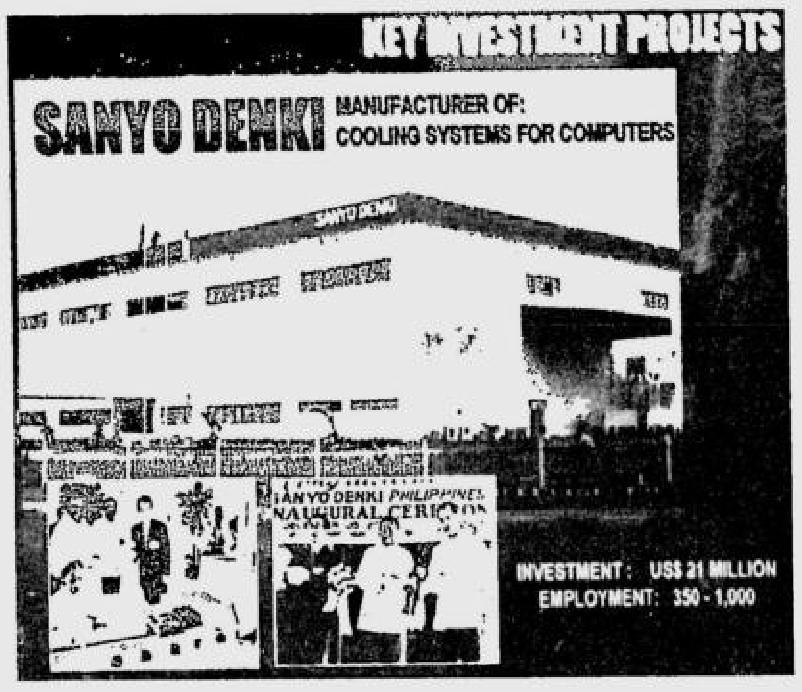
Yi-Phone Subic Bay Corp. (Subic Bay Industrial Park Phase I)

- Manufacturer of flyback transformers, TV door phones and deflection yokes.
- Inaugurated its new manufacturing facility in August 2000.
- Committed investment of US$1.41 million with additional US$3.13 million in machinery investment.
- Projected employment of 280-500 workers.

Comoss Electronics (Phils.) Corporation (Subic Bay Industrial Park Phase I)

Manufacturing company specializing in connector and cable assembly concentrating in turn-key solutions for connectors, cable assemblies and computer peripherals mainly for Office Equipment Management (OEM) business.

- Completed and is now operating its manufacturing plant located over a 4,900 sq.m. lot in SBIP.



- Committed investment of US$1 million under a 50-year lease contract with manpower requirements to increase by 120% annually.

Catcher Technology Phils. Inc. (Subic Bay Industrial Park Phase I)

- Expanded its operations from Taiwan to Subic being the main supplier of notebook parts for Acer Philippines,
- Projected employment of 120-300 workers.

Aparri Electronicss Corp. (Naval Magazine)

- American Firm (formerly Eagle Asia Inc.) engaged in electronic products and was recently awarded the ISO9002.

-US$6M additional investment, doubling its manpower requirements from 430 to 800 workers.

*PORT DEVELOPERS

Mega Equipment International Corporation

Development and operation of a modern bulk handling grains facility at the Leyte Wharf under an initial capital of Php450 million.

Tacoma Integrated Port Services Inc. (TIPSI)

Development and operation of a modern fertilizer cargo terminal at the Boton wharf under a Php360 million development contract.

This project also completes development initiatives intended for the modernization of Subic's port facilities, making the Freeport the only area with complete port handling systems.

****Both investment projects will contribute to the food security programs of the country.***

- **Major existing locators that expanded Subic operations during the current SBMA leadership:**

Federal Express (Subic Bay International Airport)

- Extended its lease contract to year 2007 with the option to renew up to 2013 from its earlier expiration of 2002.
- Increased the frequency of daily flights by 50% and will augment its fleet from 12 to 20 cargo planes; increased its base area by an additional 2,071 sq.m. with the construction of three more buildings.
- Contribution of at least Php151.44 million a year or a total Php1.25 billion in annual revenues under the eight-year revised agreement.
- Raised its rent payments for the use of open spaces adjacent to the FedEx lease area; contribution of US$9.12 million in additional income for SBMA in terms of rental and landing fees in eight years.

BICC Brand Rex (Boton)

- Under took two(2) expansion projects over the last 2 years.
- Increased its Subic investment to US$20 million with additional capitalization of US$3.6 million.
- Completed construction of its new plant over 3,500 meters of land at the Boton area.
- Output of 12,000 kilometers cables pairs per week increased two to four times.

Koryo Subic Inc. (Boton)

- To pump in US$3 million in additional investment for its long-term expansion project.
- Completed construction of its additional facility, will increase number of workers from 348 to 1,000.

Active Alliance Incorporated (Central Business District)

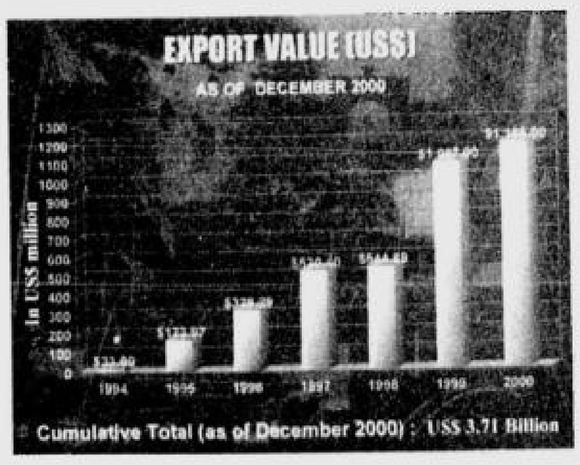
- Affiliate company of Kace Electronics (Subic) engaged in the manufacture of printed circuit boards (PCBs) using surface mount technology.
- Investing US$2 million additional capitalization for its long-term expansion and will create an additional 900 new jobs.

EXPORTS

- Subic Bay Freeport has set record export growth after having surpassed twice the US$1 billion mark in annual export value.

A comparative report of Freight On Board (FOB) value for the period January to December 2000 showed Subic exports at **US$1.185 billion**, 9% higher than its 1999 value of US$1.087 billion and 113% higher than the 1998 value of US$545 million.

- The current SBMA administration has so far registered total exports of **US$2.49 billion** since Payumo's takeover of the SBMA leadership. This represents 64% of the Freeport's cumulative export value of US$3.88 billion.



P2.1-B CONTRIBUTION TO GOVERNMENT INCOME

- ***From importations:***

The Bureau of Customs (BoC) at the Port of Subic and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) reported that its combined collection of customs duties and taxes for year 2000 reached **Php2.1 billion**, far exceeding previous revenue collections of **Php1.855 billion** and **Php993 million for 1999 and 1998** respectively.

5% ON GROSS INCOME + WITHOLDING TAX

1998	1999	2000
463,048,645	507,443,598	554,519,098

COMBINED BOC and BIR REVENUE COLLECTION on IMPORTATIONS in Php

1998	993,665,300
1999	1,885,250,900
2000	2,085,247,100

From 5% on gross income of SBF enterprises:

Collections of the BIR from the 5% on gross income of SBF enterprises for year 2000 was pegged at **Php554 million**, registering a **9.27%** increase from its **1999 figure of Php507.4 million.**

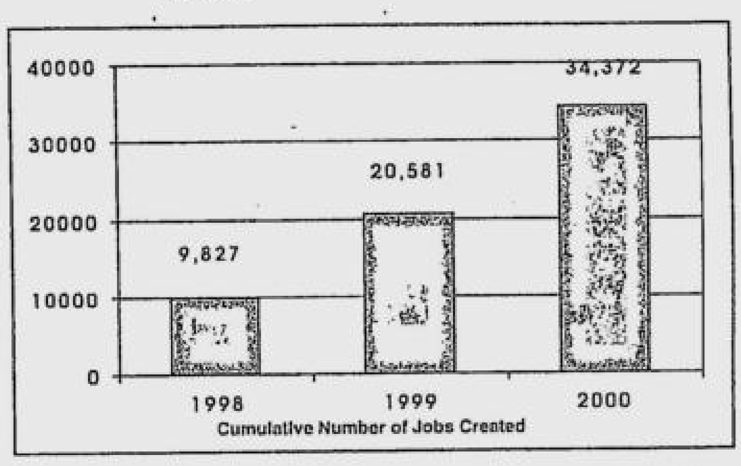
Financial statement

The SBMA reports a net income of P105,183,000.00, a reversal of the P105,616,000.00 loss in 1999.

EMPLOYMENT

A total of **29,395** workers were hired by the Freeport's various locators from **September 1998-December 2000.**

There where **7,756 workers** employed in Subic prior to the assumption of the new SBMA leadership.



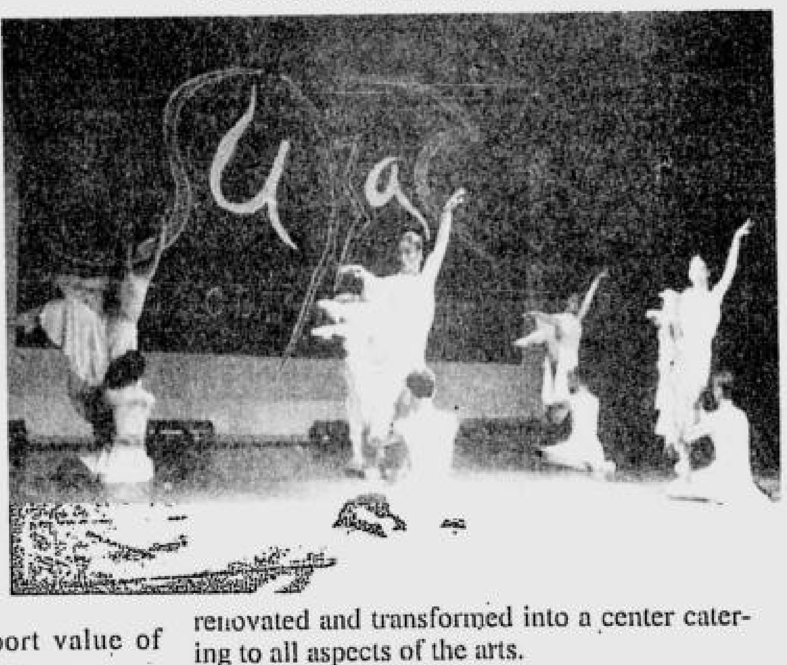
- For the current year 2000, the SBMA labor center facilitated the hiring of **13,614** workers.
- Total number of workers of Subic locators, **SBMA** and **FSC** employees is now **34,372**, far exceeding the peak of employment of **30,000** when the Freeport was a naval facility of the United States.

TOURISM

- The number of Subic Bay Freeport visitors reached 7 million compared to 3.4 million in 1999. Increase in visitor volume in the Freeport can be attributed to the "Friendly Gates" policy of the SBMA. Peole from all walks of life now have easier access to the Freeport.

The Subic Bay Arts Center

The former Lowry Hall Station Theater has been renovated and transformed into a center catering to all aspects of the arts.



The new Subic Bay Arts Center (SUBAC) opened its doors to the public for the first time in May 2000 via a successful arts festival offering free performances by different groups like PETA, Repertory Philippines, Trumpets, Ballet Manila etc., all under the umbrella organization of Philstage. It also tied up with Casa San Miguel for a year-round cultural performances of Bolipata Brothers, Pundakit Chamber Orchestra and foreign and local guest artists.

The Butterfly Garden

Located at the Jest Camp, the Butterfly Garden displays the wealth of biodiversity found not only in Subic but the entire country as well.

It houses an array of butterflies and other spectacular insects such as cleopatras, dragonflies, damselfies giant stick insects and leaf insects.

... A VIEW OF THE FUTURE

Since the current administration assumed stewardship of the SBMA, it began embarking on a four-point program to make Subic Bay Freeport competitive with the rest of the world. These are to develop Subic Freeport into a world-class seaport, to expand Subic's limited horizon into the hinterland with the Subic-Clark Alliance, to establish E-Subic as Information Technology (I.T.) center of Asia and to enhance Subic's attraction as tourist destination by developing nature theme parks.

PORT MODERNIZATION

SBMA Chairman Felicito C.Payumo ensured the development of Subic's port facilities after the Authority broke an impasse in the stalled port development plan.

- A joint venture agreement (JVA) was forged by the contending parties in a previous bidding controversy—the International Container Terminal Services, Inc (ICTSI) and Royal Port Services Inc. (RPSI) for the interim development of a working container terminal at the Naval Supply Depot.

The SBITC has already installed a gantry crane (acquisition cost: US$1.87M) at the Sattler Pier, NSD , boosting Subic's handling capacity from 20,000 TEUs (Twenty Equivalent Units) to 120,000 TEUs.

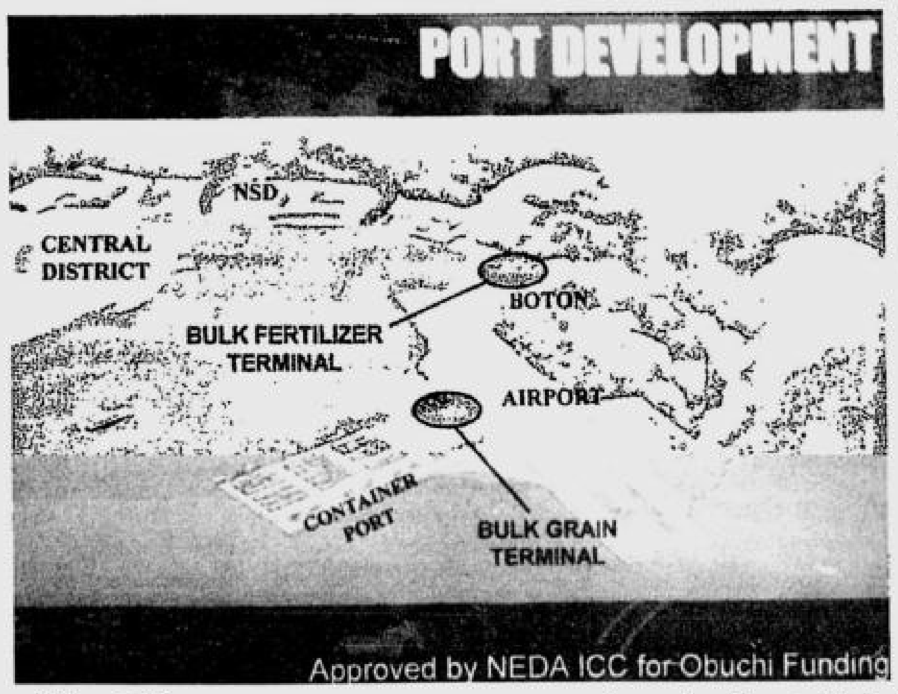
- Approval by the government of Japan (through the Japan Bank for International Cooperation) of a 16.45 Billion Yen Loan Package that will fund the Subic Bay Port Development Project.

The project is aimed at developing a new container terminal at the Cubi Point area which will be capable of accommodating Panamax and Post-Panamax vessels and the rehabilitiation of other existing port facilities at the Naval Supply Depot and Boton areas.

The Subic Port Development Plan will increase container port capacity to 900,000 TEUs. Long term, the existing airport land could yield a container port with 12,000 feet of quay capable of handling over 4 million TEUs a year.

Subic vs. other Asian ports

The Port of Manila currently handles a total of 1.5 million TEUs/year. In contrast, Singapore and Hongkong are handling 14 million TEUs/year each and Kaoshiung with 6 million TEUs.



A capacity shortage of 14 million TEUs is projected for Asia and the Pacific region. Singapore having reached its capacity limit and Hongkong is severely silted, this is an opportunity for Subic to grab.

Meanwhile, the Laem Chabang Port of Thailand and other Malaysian Ports are racing to fill the gap.

E-SUBIC

- The SBMA leadership is aiming at making the Subic Freeport competitive in the global arena by taking advantage of Information Technology.

Citizens-on-line instead of in-line. Ultimately, the goal is to have an E-government in Subic where applications for services and permits can be transacted on-line.

Strategic Alliances. Some of the world's leading IT proponents have formed strategic partnerships with the SBMA.

Oracle Systems Incorporated signed an agreement with the SBMA which provides collaborations between the two to make IT available to start-up local e-businesses in Subic and enable them to penetrate the fast-changing global market.

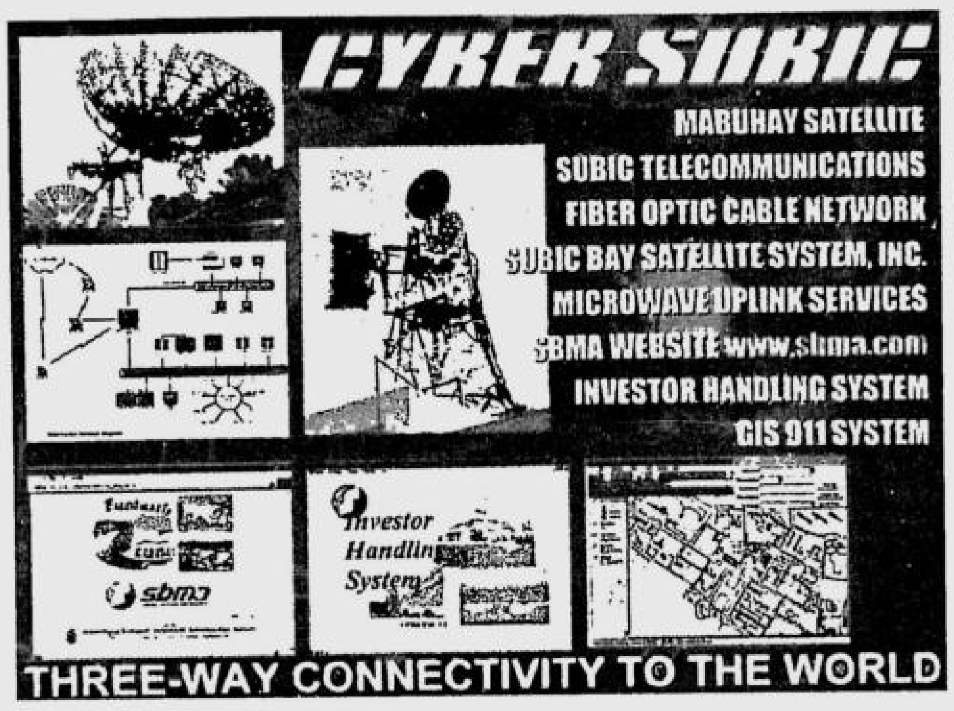
Pacific Technology International also signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of an advanced communications center in Subic Freeport.

The SBMA also forged partnerships with the Silicon Valley in California and the Alliance Center in Forthworth Texas.

The Freeport's IT infrastructure. The Freeport is the only place in the Philippines currently connected and possessing access to the Global Information Superhighway through microwave, satellite and submarine fiber optics. It also boasts of other core IT elements such as the Geographic Information System (GIS-911).

The SBMA Data Center provides support services and houses 13 powerful Sun Servers operating 24x7 using fiber optics.

The center maintains the SBMA website that can be accessed through its URL http//sbma.com.


CYBER SUBIC
MABUHAY SATELLITE
SUBIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS
FIBER OPTIC CABLE NETWORK
SUBIC BAY SATELLITE SYSTEM, INC.
MICROWAVE UPLINK SERVICES
SBMA WEBSITE www.sbma.com
INVESTOR HANDLING SYSTEM
GIS 911 SYSTEM
Investor Handling System
sbma
THREE-WAY CONNECTIVITY TO THE WORLD

The SBMA also has an Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) using Oracle tools, and is currently developing its own investor handling system which will provide speed in business transactions.

With such extensive IT infrastructure, the SBMA is projected to become a hub of these following IT capabilities:

Software Development. The Freeport is moving ahead with a software development park to be established at the Taiwanese Industrial Park Phase II area. The proposed five-hectare park is similar to Taipei's Software Development Center.

An engineering and software development center at the Japanese Techno-Park is likewise on the drawing board.

Subic locators that have already established their own software development center at the Techno-Park are Omron and Nippon Ceramic Co. Ltd. of Japan.

E-commerce and Distance Learning. A growing number of IT companies are eyeing the Freeport as an e-commerce platform, the more recent being DVB Holdings Ltd., which expressed interest to invest US$100 million to transform Subic into Asia's center for e-commerce.

CyberEd. A relatively new cluster in Subic's IT network, academic institutions promoting distance learning programs through the internet, or "Cyber Universities" have set their sights on the Freeport.

Already, a number of academic and technical institutions have flourished here, transforming an area within the Central Business District into a virtual "university belt."

Academic institutions that have established their presence in the Freeport are the Ateneo Graduate School of Business-Center for Continuing Education, The Philippine Science and Technology Centers, Aura Mondriaan College, Comteq Computer and Business College and the DECS Special Education Program.

The University of the Philippines, which had set up its extension program inside the Freeport, will establish a Science, Mathematics and English Training Program to equip teachers with the skills and tools on how to teach Science, Math and English properly at the grade school rather than at the college level where the deficiency is more difficult to correct.

High-end quality education is also offered by Brent International School, Regional Science High School and the Ramon Magsaysay Technical University-Western Luzon Agricultural College (RMTU-WLAC)

INSTITUTIONAL STREGTHENING

For the first time, the SBMA focused on strengthening its organization by professionalising its ranks and addressing their needs.

The SBMA ensured the career development of its workers after it upgraded the status of 600 employees from temporary to permanent.

At the start of the current SBMA administration in 1998, there were only 82 employees in SBMA who were of regular status.

The SBMA also resolved housing requirements of its employees by entering into agreements with three realty corporations for the provision of socialized housing programs for Freeport workers.

EXPANDING HORIZONS

- On November 28, 1998, the SBMA opened the Morong gate, the Freeport's backdoor, ending the province of Bataan's 50-year isolation from this former military facility.

After the symbolic opening of the Morong gate, the SBMA was tasked to develop the Bataan Technology Park.

As BTP's estate manager, the SBMA was able to secure commitments to transform the industrial area dedicated to research and development. Agreements were forged with the Department of Agriculture, the Bataan Center for Innovative Science and Technology and China's top Agri-based firm Zhong Shang Inc.

THE SUBIC-CLARK ALLIANCE

The Subic-Clark Alliance is a legacy project aimed at linking together the two economic powerhouses and their major infrastructures (Clark with its international airport and Subic Port, its natural deep harbor) through a proposed 92-kilometer, four-lane Subic-Clark-Tarlac Toll road. Project cost is estimated at US$425 million.

SUBIC-CLARK ALLIANCE
A STRATEGIC LEGACY PROJECT FOR THE PHILIPPINES
BATAAN

The road project is seen to be the precursor to a global intermodal transpark that would also benefit other nodal growth areas in Central Luzon and eventually transform this corridor into a megalopolis complementing congested Metro Manila.

The project has been endorsed by the NEDA ICC and is currently awaiting funding approval from the Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC).

PROACTIVE MARKETING

The SBMA entered into a new dimension in the Freeport's development and market strategy with the implementation of Pro-Active Marketing 2000, where unique and highly-marketable land assets are being offered to potential stakeholders.

Identified for future development are the following:

1. **Subic Gateway**- Convention/Exhibition Center: Eight hectares for use of international and domestic conferences, meetings, fairs and exhibitions; for long term lease.
2. **Subic-Gateway-Business Hotel:** 1.5 hectares for a proposed hotel managed and located primarily for convention visitors. Subic Gateway is situated near the Tipo Gate, the Freeport's main access road to Metropolitan Manila.
3. **Central Area-Mini Business Park:** Five hectares for a proposed Industrial Park to be developed by investor for small factories, IT users and incubator industries.
4. **Central Area-Mixed Use:** 1.27 hectares for combination office commercial (some retail) and apartments.
5. **Redondo-Green Beach One:** 40 hectares left behind by the Shell Malampaya Concrete Gravity Structure (CGS) Area is proposed for tourism, port, specialty industrial, or other uses.
6. **Central Area-Offices:** 8,500 sq. meters for offices to be constructed on Dewey Avenue.
7. **Ilanin Bay Resort:** Three hectares for resort Hotels and Cottages, Cafe's, Shops, and Pubs near the Marine Exploratorium and the proposed Bio-Park.

DEVELOPMENT OF NATURE THEME PARKS

- ***Subic Bay Ocean Adventure/Bio-park***

To start operations in time for the summer season, the Subic Bay Marine Exploratorium Inc. is currently developing a world-class theme park at the Kamayan Wharf that will showcase interactive entertainment featuring dolphins, whales and sea lions.

Unique in this theme park is its setting amid natural environment (open sea), and an aquarium showcasing the ecosystem of Subic Bay from the estuarine, mangrove, coral reefs including pelagic fishes and an interactive marine conservation theme.

Second phase will be a Forest theme park and wildlife sanctuary to be developed within the boundaries of the Freeport's protected forest. Integrated in the plan is the establishment of tourism-related facilities such as resorts, hotels, recreation services and shopping areas.

The bio-park is expected to stimulate opportunities and create economic spillover to the Freeport's neighboring communities in terms of employment.

Corporate Team Building and Seminars

One of only three facilities existing in the Philippines is the exciting features of the Ropes Course Facility at the Jest Camp.

Different market segments can use the facility for behavioral training courses such as corporate groups, government agencies, schools, NGOs, and the religious sector.

The SBMA also improved other tourism facilities that will further enhance Subic Freeport as a tourist destination. These areas are: Grande Island, Hill 394, Waterfront boardwalk, Triboa Mangrove area (bird watching) the Apaliin, Pamulaklakin and Boton Falls Trails.

Ocean Adventure
Our Marine Friends

Rightists eyed in Popoy slay

(From page A1)

"Everybody is suspect at this time—the right, the left, the center, the enemies of Popoy Lagman, those of us who have been on the opposite side of the political fence. Even . . . the military, the police, the political groups in the country," Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said.

Enrile called for the speedy investigation of the case because "we are all suspects."

He complained that he and his followers in the military are always being tagged as coup plotters.

Lagman, 47, chair of the militant Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, died Tuesday night four hours after he was shot four times in the head inside the campus of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

Bello pointed out that there was apparent "continuity" in Lagman's death with the Dec. 30 bombings and that it could not have been anything but part of a destabilization plot.

But because of the many enemies Lagman reportedly made in the past, the suspects in his assassination range from rightist extremists to leftist groups.

Argee Guevarra, spokesperson of Sanlakas, who attended the news conference called by Mendoza, said the police were pursuing the lead that Lagman was placed under surveillance by Mendoza's predecessor, Director General Panfilo "Ping" Lacson Jr., months before and up to the ouster of Estrada.

Under surveillance

Guevarra said Lagman was placed under surveillance because he was active in the campaign to oust Estrada.

He said Lagman let his guard down after Estrada was deposed through People Power II and Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took over the reins of power.

Guevarra said Sanlakas was also doing its independent probe and that it was coordinating with the intelligence units of the Philippine National Police and Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force and the National Bureau of Investigation.

In a news conference, Mendoza released to the media four sketches of the suspected gunmen based on descriptions provided by witnesses.

Three of them were aged 25 to 30 while the other was aged between 35 and 40. Their heights ranged from five feet two inches to five feet five inches. They were of medium build.

Director Edgardo Aglipay, head of the PNP National Capital Region Police Office and of Task Force Popoy, said "professionals" carried out the assassination.

Chief Supt. Victor Luga, Central Police District head, said police had lifted some fingerprints on the Toyota Corolla that the suspects commandeered and later abandoned.

"Of course, we have to determine if these really belonged to the suspects. It might be from the owners," Luga said.

Six witnesses

One of the six witnesses in the custody of the police claimed that the gunmen shouted that they were members of the communist New People's Army (NPA) as they fled after shooting Lagman.

Col. Eduardo Bentain, police chief of the University of the Philippines, told the INQUIRER that a *taho* vendor had said that he heard the suspects claiming that they were NPA members.

The other witnesses include a 13-year-old boy, a security guard, a doctor and another *taho* vendor.

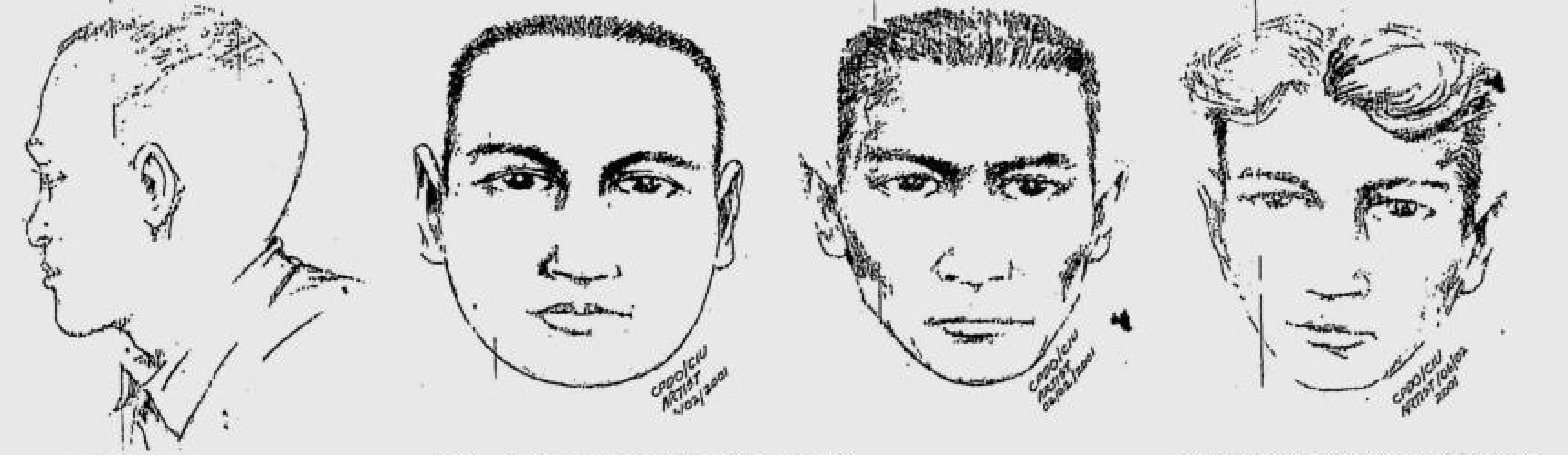
But Lagman's secretary Michelle Caños, 29, and his eldest son Dante, 25, denied hearing that the suspects shouted they were NPA members.

The young Lagman and Caños arrived with the labor leader at the Bahay ng Alumni and were a few meters from him when the ambush took place.

Reenactment

They reenacted yesterday afternoon the last moments of the former leader of the Alex Boncayao Brigade, the dreaded urban communist hit squad in the '80s.

Lagman came from a meeting with a politician in Mandaluyong City before he arrived at the Bahay ng Alumni around 4:30 p.m.



Some 40 minutes earlier the suspects were already seen roaming the area.

Lagman, Dante and Caños alighted from their white Nissan Sentra on the corner of Magsaysay and Balagtas streets.

They then walked through the car park on Balagtas Street toward the stairs leading to the Bahay ng Alumni right side entrance.

Caños said she dialed Lagman's cellular phone because he had to talk with somebody from their Sanlakas office.

Caños and Dante then proceeded to climb the stairway while Lagman stayed below, his left arm rested on a railing while his other hand held his cellular phone to his right ear.

Lagman was in that position and with his back from the stairway when two of the gunmen came down from the Bahay ng Alumni.

Dante said one of the suspects even stared at him before going down.

One of them then fired the fatal shot, using a .45 cal. automatic and hit Lagman just below his left ear. The other suspect then fired his .38 cal. revolver, but missed.

Caños and Dante came down and went after the suspects but the gunmen fired three warning shots on the ground to stop them.

Besides three spent shells of a .45 cal. automatic, the police also found a .38 cal. slug at the Bahay ng Alumni parking lot.

The suspects later escaped after they joined two other suspects who commandeered a doctor's Toyota Corolla.

No bodyguard

"Popoy never carried a gun or had a throng of bodyguards following him. That was the risk he took because he did not want to be slowed down," said Wilson Fortaleza, Sanlakas chair.

Bello said the government would be making a mistake if it focused its investigation on the differences of the Left.

Presidential spokesperson Renato Corona's statement that "rival leftist groups could be behind the killing is like a dog barking up the wrong tree," he said.

Contending leftist groups once again saw themselves uniting for a common cause as they called on the government to solve the crime and punish the perpetrators.

The party list group Bayan Muna also called on authorities to speed up the investigation as it urged rival groups to desist from issuing wild speculations.

Bayan Muna president Satur Ocampo hinted that groups or individuals who would benefit from introducing "this kind of disruptive action could be behind the killing."

"Groups or elements who are ought to make juicy dividends from the ambush are the most likely perpetrators" he said.

Ocampo also maintained that the mainstream left had nothing to gain from Lagman's ambush slay.

Nilo de la Cruz, chief negotiator of the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB), also said that leaders of the different factions of the left should not quickly accuse anyone.

De la Cruz condemned Jose Maria Sison, founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines, for blaming his enemies as those behind Lagman's death.

"It is a great wonder for us that from his faraway refuge in the Netherlands he seems to have ready explanations to Ka Popoy's death, readily pointing to his perceived opponents as the culprits. Yet it is his group that has a track record of using violence against its opponents," he said.

NPA order of battle

De la Cruz added that Lagman was in the order of battle of the NPA.

De la Cruz was Lagman's former comrade until they separated in 1997 due to political and personal differences. They earlier broke away from Sison's group.

The labor leader's killing came two days after Sison disclosed there was an alleged plot to assassinate him.

The plot was supposedly masterminded by the Estrada administration in connivance with breakaway communist groups such as the RPA-ABB.

Arturo Tabara of the RPA-ABB said Sison's accusation was meant to discredit his group in the peace talks with the government.

Since the 1990s, the Lagman bloc, known as the "rejectionists," has engaged the "reaffirmists" in the CPP in debates over ideology and political strategies. The schism manifested in the breaking up of front organizations in the student and youth, peasant, labor and urban poor sectors.

Lagman has been accused by Sison as a "counter-revolutionary" and military sources said that Sison "has standing orders that Popoy should be punished."

"Special partisan operations (by the communists) employ the same method as assassins," a source said.

Sison had denied that the mainstream CPP had any hand in the killing of Lagman.

The fisherfolk group Pamalakaya said some quarters were maliciously raising the long ideological and political rift between the "reaffirmists" and "rejectionists" to provoke clashes between rival organizations.

Pamalakaya spokesperson Gerry Albert Corpuz said "forces hostile to the Left" were taking advantage of the situation by linking the ambush slay to underground and legal organizations.

Corpuz said the killing of Lagman fitted a pattern of assassinations that followed the first People Power Revolt at Edsa in 1986.

He cited the killing of labor leader Rolando Olalia before the May 1987 elections and the murder of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan leader Lean Alejandro months after. ***With reports from Armand N. Nocum, Gerald G. Lacuarta and Juliet L. Javellana***

Rebel group . . .

(From page A1)

in a statement e-mailed to the INQUIRER yesterday.

It described the perpetrators of the treacherous ambush as "people without souls."

Sanlakas, Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, Labor Solidarity Movement, Federation of Free Workers and Alliance of Progressive Labor said the murder was meant to "silence one of the brave souls for the cause of the workers and marginalized sectors of society."

Argee Guevarra, Sanlakas spokesman, said the workers would seek redress by mounting indignation rallies until the Lagman slaying was solved.

Alex Aguilar, TUCP spokesman, said "any act against a brother in the labor movement is an attack against the entire trade union movement."

"For whatever political reason this act was committed, the means by which this was perpetrated will never justify any political end," Aguilar said.

He said the brutal slaying did an "injustice" to the workers as it disregarded the civilized rules of democratic debate that they continue to safeguard.

Roy Oliveros, FFW and LSM national president, acknowledged that while his group and that of Lagman's BMP differed in approaches, they were one in promoting workers' rights.

Joshua Mata, APL spokesman, said the killing was "meant to terrorize the labor movement."

Sto. Tomas

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said Lagman's killing was "tragic" as it not only dealt harm on the victim and his family but also caused severe damage to the civil society at large.

"Popoy Lagman was a controversial figure, but his work and his activities for which he earned the ire of many, lent vigor, valor and added meaning to the Philippine labor movement," Sto. Tomas said.

She said under Lagman's tutelage, the BMP has "proven to be the most militant labor group."

"It is obvious that Mr. Lagman wielded strength because his methods were effective, and because many downtrodden people, especially workers, found validity in his cause and a champion in his person," she said.

Other contending militant groups once again saw themselves uniting for a common cause as they called on the Macapagal administration to punish the killers of Lagman.

In a common statement, more than 30 cause-oriented groups and individuals called on the democratic and progressive forces to unite in demanding justice for Lagman.

Major loss

They described Lagman's death as "a major loss not only to the progressive mass movement but to the whole of Philippine society as well."

"For several decades, Ka Popoy has been one of the staunchest and most devoted leaders who fought for and defended the interests of the oppressed, most especially the workers. We may have not always shared his views nor agreed with his assertions, but we had never doubted his convictions," the groups said in the statement.

Among the signatories were Freedom from Debt Coalition, BMP, Alternative Law Group, Akbayan, Alliance of Progressive Labor, Kalayaan, Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya, Leandro L. Alejandro Foundation, Sanlakas, Pandayan, Task Force Detainees of the Philippines, the Anti-Trapo Movement and the Sosyalistang Kilusang Manggagawa.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines also paid tribute Lagman.

The CBCP said Lagman was one of those who sowed the seeds of People Power II because of BMP and Sanlakas demonstrations calling for the resignation of former President Joseph Estrada.

Coronel said the bishops were praying for swift justice for the slain labor leader.

Senators

Senators also condemned the murder. Sen. Franklin Drilon said the killing of Lagman would create tension in the country if not immediately solved.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said the killing of Lagman was unfortunate because it came right after Ms Macapagal took office.

"It signals the beginning of some kind of violence in the country and I hope it will not go beyond that," Enrile said.

Drilon, a former secretary of labor and of justice, said Lagman's killing reminded him of the murder of another labor leader Rolando Olalia in 1986.

"An incident like this can lead to tension. The crime must be solved at the soonest possible time and the authorities must leave no stone unturned," Drilon said.

"I condemn it with all the vehemence I can command. You know violence of that kind has a way of escalating and we hope that there will be no spiral of violence that will result from the murder of Popoy Lagman," Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said.

Sen. Raul Roco said Lagman was one of those who led groups that brought about change. "I think it is a crime that should not be forgotten. We should all be saddened by the killing of Popoy," he said.

But Lidy Nacpil, FDC secretary general and widow of slain activist Lean Alejandro, said she did not expect the government to quickly solve the murder.

Low expectation

"We have very low expectation though that justice will be achieved. I don't think we can have that level of justice in this kind of society," she said.

She cited the killing of her husband and that of Olalia during the Aquino administration, which up to now remained unsolved.

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales also noted that since the grisly murder of Olalia in November 1986, police authorities had yet to solve a major crime in which a leftist leader was the victim.

Rosales said Olalia's murder "was suspiciously committed by ultra-right military elements who continued to destabilize the new government of Corazon Aquino."

"This was followed by a series of failed ambushes against progressive PUP president (Nemesio) Prudente and the murder of Lean Alejandro, student leader and secretary general of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan," she added.

"Unfortunately, however, while the suspicion ran high in the minds of the citizens, the government was never able to catch any of the culprits who murdered Rolando Olalia, ambushed Professor Prudente and killed Lean Alejandro," Rosales complained.

Chilling effect

Bohol Rep. Ernesto Herrera, secretary general of the 1.2-million strong TUCP, warned that Lagman's murder "sends a chilling effect on labor leaders and deals a big blow to the labor movement, particularly if it is not solved as soon as possible."

Herrera pointed out that Lagman's death "is strikingly similar" to the death of Olalia.

"That murder was part of the attempts to destabilize the young Aquino government. I hope that the death of Lagman is not something along this line as well."

He added that since Lagman and his supporters were able to organize thousands of workers, "his death may be misinterpreted by workers as a warning to organized labor to just keep quiet and accept their fate in the hands of abusive employers." ***With a report from Juliet L. Javellana***

Perez, 82 groups want ₱20-B Erap assets seized

(From page A1)

Supreme Court to stop the Ombudsman's investigation, claiming he still enjoyed presidential immunity from prosecution.

The high court rejected Estrada's plea for the issuance of a temporary restraining order or writ of preliminary injunction, but scheduled a hearing on his petition next week.

Yesterday, Desierto said the cases were now deemed submitted for resolution after Estrada refused to reply to the charges. The Ombudsman also turned down Estrada's request for more time to submit a counter-affidavit.

"The special preliminary investigation panel has to resolve the cases by Feb. 12 even without a counter-affidavit or controverting evidence from the former President," Desierto said.

He said one more criminal case of corruption had been filed against Estrada, but it was still being evaluated.

Desierto promised to lead the prosecution team if Estrada's cases reached the Sandiganbayan.

He said he would recommend that Estrada's trial be open to the public and conducted daily so it could be completed in about four months.

Compounded

The forfeiture case filed by Perez and the anti-Estrada groups compounds Estrada's mounting legal problems.

Lawyer Romeo Capulong, one of the private prosecutors, said the forfeiture case was different from the seven cases pending before the Ombudsman. "We will be using new pieces of evidence not mentioned in the earlier cases," he said.

The subject of the forfeiture case included P10 billion worth of deposits in secret bank accounts, Treasury bills and other investments.

Also included in the case are P10 billion worth of prime real estate, including the so-called "Boracay" mansion in New Manila, Quezon City, and other mansions in Wack-Wack, Mandaluyong City.

The anti-Estrada groups are also seeking the seizure of houses and lots at No. 73 Swallow Drive in Green Meadows Subdivision in Quezon City; No. 2 Molave corner Banaba Street in Forbes Park, Makati City; No. 70 Mindoro Street and 30-D Cleveland Towers in Manila Marina Bay, Parañaque; No. 175 Wilson corner Asinas Street in San Juan; No. 421 Gomezville and 844 Balagtas Street, Addition Hills in Mandaluyong City; and Villa F5, Tagaytay Highlands in Tagaytay.

Lawyer Maria Elena Enriquez, another private prosecutor, said these properties were registered under "thinly capitalized dummy corporations funded directly or indirectly by the deposed President."

Perez said the assets being sought in the forfeiture case were excluded in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities that Estrada filed in 1999. Estrada then declared a net worth of only P35 million.

When Estrada became the Vice President in 1992, he only declared a net worth of only P3.4 million in his Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

As Vice President, Estrada received an annual salary of P240,000. As President, he received an annual salary of P557,000.

In a 16-page complaint, the groups pointed out that Estrada as Vice President and subsequently as President "cannot receive during his tenure any other emolument from the government or any other sources."

"Under the Constitution, he cannot also directly or indirectly practice any other profession or participate in any business," they added.

"However, during his incumbency as public official, Estrada acquired money which he kept or placed in bank accounts, Treasury bills, investment accounts and or commercial papers in his name, or his different aliases, or in numbered or letter accounts or in the name of or jointly with his wife or in the name of his mistresses, in the amount of at least P10 billion."

Astronomical

The complainants pointed out that the "astronomical amount of P10 billion" was "manifestly and inordinately out of proportion" to his salary as a public official and to his other income from legitimately acquired property declared in his Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

They added that Estrada, using his alias "Jose Velarde" in one of his Equitable PCI Bank account alone, amassed at least P3.2 billion from August 1999 to November 2000.

They added that Estrada—under his name or in his different aliases or in the name of or jointly with his wife, former First Lady Loi Ejercito—also had "approximately $3 million in a foreign currency deposit account at the Greenhills Branch of Citibank, N.A."

The complainants said Estrada had other money in other banks, like the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., MetroBank, Security Bank and Trust Co., Allied Bank, Bank of Commerce, United Coconut Planters Bank, Asia United Bank and International Exchange Bank and Urban Bank.

They said Estrada also transferred money and properties to his mistresses—Laarni Enriquez, Guia Gomez, Joy Melendrez, Peachy Osorio and Rowena Lopez—and his illegitimate children.

They urged Desierto to file a forfeiture case with the Sandiganbayan in connection with the assets in question.

"It is further prayed that, after due proceedings, such other charges as may be warranted under the premises be likewise filed against Estrada," they added.

With reports from AP and AFP

GMA asked Davide to administer the oath

(From page A1)

Davide Jr. to administer her the oath.

In another interview, Jaime Cardinal Sin's spokesperson said the influential prelate credited Davide and the Supreme Court's decision to swear in the Vice President as the factor that led to the sudden oath-taking, and denied that it showed any bad faith on the part of Macapagal's negotiators.

The reactions came in the wake of the INQUIRER's publication of excerpts from former Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara's diary, indicating that People Power forces acted in bad faith after supposedly agreeing to a five-day transition period for the turnover of the presidency, by going ahead with the oath-taking.

Associate Justice Artemio T. Panganiban, who played a key role in assembling 12 justices to authorize the Chief Justice to swear in Ms Macapagal, disclosed that the former Vice President faxed the two-paragraph letter to Davide's office at 11:34 a.m. or 26 minutes before she took her oath.

Panganiban said Ms Macapagal called up the office around 10 a.m., saying that negotiations with then President Joseph Estrada's camp had "bogged down."

Panganiban said Davide did not take the call personally but instructed him to speak with Ms Macapagal.

"She said, 'I would like to take (you up) your offer" to swear her as President in at 12 noon, he recalled.

"But I told her that we would need a letter from her requesting the Chief Justice to swear her in," Panganiban said.

Ms Macapagal's office did not transmit the letter until 11:34 a.m. "I was wondering why a two-paragraph letter would take so long (to write). They were really careful in crafting it," Panganiban said.

He noted that in the second paragraph of the letter, Ms Macapagal wrote that she was taking over because of the "permanent disability of the President."

The letter was the basis of a resolution unanimously passed by the Supreme Court two days later giving Davide the authority to swear in Ms Macapagal.

Deposed President Estrada, however, has filed a petition questioning the high court's move.

Fierce debate

While the justices waited for Ms Macapagal's letter, Panganiban said, there was a fierce debate over the constitutionality of installing her as the new President.

Some of the justices questioned Davide's offer to swear her in, he said.

"They were asking why the Chief Justice committed the court. I told them it was going to be his action because he would be the one to swear her in," Panganiban said.

He said he had underscored Davide's concern that allowing anti-Estrada demonstrators to storm Malacañang could lead to bloodshed. "And swearing in GMA could have been the only way to prevent this," Panganiban said he told the other justices.

But when Ms Macapagal's letter finally came, the justices "unanimously agreed" to grant Davide the authority to swear her in as the new President, he said.

"We were even discussing if we should go to Edsa in our robes," he said, adding that Davide himself did not have enough time to change clothes and wore jeans and a simple shirt under the black robe he wore for the impromptu inauguration.

The justices packed themselves into two vans and headed for Edsa, he said.

Announce and defend

According to Panganiban, the option of swearing in the Vice President was raised as early as 4 a.m. that day when he awoke to radio and TV reports that opposition forces had given Estrada a 6 a.m. deadline to leave Malacañang, or they would storm the Palace.

"Even Cardinal Sin was alarmed about this so I called up the Chief Justice at 5:30 (a.m.)," Panganiban said.

Davide was already at his office at the Supreme Court when Panganiban called.

The two discussed the possibility of swearing in Ms Macapagal at 12 noon if only to deter the huge Edsa group from storming Malacañang and prevent bloodshed.

"The Chief Justice told me to make the announcement and defend it," Panganiban said.

Calling Sin

He then called up Villa San Miguel to inform Cardinal Sin of the plan. Monsignor Soc Villegas, Sin's spokesperson, answered the phone. It was Villegas, in turn, who made arrangements for the plan to swear in Ms Macapagal at noon be announced at Edsa "so that the crowd would no longer go to Malacañang," Panganiban said.

In a separate interview, Villegas confirmed that Panganiban called him early that Saturday.

"It was around 6:15 a.m. when Justice Panganiban called. He said the Chief Justice did not want violence to erupt on Mendiola," Villegas said.

But Villegas said he was under the impression that "Davide already had the concurrence of the other justices" when Panganiban called.

Shortly after the call, Sin went on air over Radio Veritas and announced that Ms Macapagal would take her oath at the shrine before the Chief Justice at noontime that day.

3 matters

By 8 a.m., Panganiban had joined Davide at the Supreme Court. "Also around this time, the other justices started to trickle in. Twelve came, with three justices out-of-town," he said.

Panganiban said he discussed three matters with the justices: "that the Chief Justice will swear in Ms Macapagal any time if a vacancy occurs, that the Chief Justice was very concerned about the problem of bloodshed and that, if by 12 noon (there is still no vacancy), the Chief Justice will be constrained to swear her in if only to prevent bloodshed."

At 9 a.m., Davide received a call from Senate President Aquilino Pimentel, informing him that Estrada had agreed to resign, but only after five days.

"But with five days, this could be an invitation to a coup?" Panganiban said.

He said that the country would have been in chaos during those five days, with Estrada remaining as a powerless President and Ms Macapagal assuming the presidency under a revolutionary state.

The justices debated until Ms Macapagal placed her call around 10 a.m., Panganiban said.

Palace cautioned on veep at DFA helm

THE PRESIDENT of EIU Philippines, a private think tank affiliated with the London-based Economic Intelligence Unit, urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to reconsider her plan to name Vice President Teofisto Guingona concurrent foreign secretary.

Peter Wallace said it did not make sense for a Vice President to join the President in her trips abroad as foreign secretary.

"Who would then be left to take care of the government's daily operations?" he pointed out.

Wallace also said the President should consider other persons, such as Philippine Ambassador to the United Kingdom Cesar Bautista, for the sensitive post.

Gil Cabacungan Jr.

Now it's pro-Erap . . .

(From page A1)

It took a while for the resolution—which was authored by Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and which also deems the impeachment court that tried Estrada as *functio oficio* or terminated—to be approved because of an initial debate on what the Senate should do about the second envelope.

It was the pro-Estrada senators led by Juan Ponce Enrile and John Osmeña who had been insisting on the opening of the envelope since Tuesday night.

Enrile said Tuesday that the envelope should be opened so its contents could be made public, "to avoid the possibility of making changes to the contents."

This prompted an exasperated Pimentel to say at one point: "How I wish we had heard these arguments on the night of Jan. 16 . . . We wouldn't be having these problems now."

Pimentel was referring to the momentous Senate vote of 11-10 against the opening of the envelope, which triggered nationwide outrage and eventually led to a popular uprising that booted out Estrada and installed Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as President.

Asked by reporters yesterday whether he planned to seek the opening of the second envelope, Enrile said he still had to think about it.

The envelope is said to contain evidence showing that Estrada owned a P3.3-billion bank account with Equitable PCI Bank.

001-2000

According to Resolution No. 927, Case 001-2000, or Estrada's impeachment case, is now closed.

The Senate resolved that the court's records, including the second envelope, be transferred to the archives of the chamber for safekeeping and preservation.

It also resolved that the disposition of the records be subject to the written authorization of the Senate President.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago stated "for the record" that she voted against the closure of the impeachment court.

One of her reasons, she said, was that the Senate had failed to decide on the impeachment case—one of its two functions in such instances under the Constitution, the other being to try impeachment cases, she said.

Another reason Santiago cited was that the resolution left open the question of whether Estrada was still qualified to run for another elective post.

She pointed out that Estrada had already left Malacañang but that there was "no definitive explanation" on whether he could run again, having only served more than two years of his six-year term.

Under the Constitution, a president who serves more than four years of his term can no longer run for any elective post.

"Assuming that he never reassumes his post, he would have served less than four years," Santiago said.

"If we pass this resolution, we would leave one loose end," she said.

Still, Santiago said, she was for the opening of the second envelope as provided by the resolution.

After all, she noted, Estrada had already stated publicly—on Jan. 19, before he left Malacañang—that he was ordering its opening.

House, Senate unanimously confirm Guingona as veep

(From page A1)

the legitimacy of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's presidency.

Santiago said she voted for Guingona's confirmation as "acting Vice President."

Sen. John Osmeña was absent. But he told reporters earlier that he would vote a qualified "yes," citing the same legal challenge posed by ousted President Joseph Estrada through his counsel Rene Saguisag.

The conditional affirmation, however, amounted to nothing because only 12 votes were needed to confirm Guingona's nomination.

The others absent were Senators Teresa Aquino-Oreta and Robert Barbers.

In his acceptance speech, Guingona thanked the President, the senators and his supporters for the trust given to him.

"In turn, I will do my very best to measure up. With God's grace I will honor this vital trust," he said.

Guingona, the first senator elevated to the post of Vice President, also said he would miss his fellow senators' friendship.

"I will miss the glare and the smile and the looking at you," he said, directing a smile at Enrile.

At one heated moment during Estrada's impeachment trial, Enrile warned Guingona not to "gloat at me because I will not allow it."

To which a glaring Guingona retorted: "Well, I am looking at you."

Only 'acting'

Earlier at the House, Dilangalen forcibly extended the discussion on the resolution by questioning its legality.

He said Ms Macapagal remained the Vice President because she was only the "acting President."

He also complained that his colleagues were planning to pass a nonexistent resolution because there was no marking from the House's bills and index division that it had received a copy, as required by the rules.

As Dilangalen continued to ramble, an annoyed Makati Rep. Joker Arroyo moved that the body proceed with the discussion.

He said Dilangalen was only rehashing his arguments of the previous night.

"At some point we must put an end to this. We cannot be held hostage by a member who says too much. It is time we fulfilled our constitutional duty. Otherwise, we'll stay here 'til kingdom come," Arroyo said, fuming.

Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez immediately seconded Arroyo's motion.

But Dilangalen was unstoppable. He and Golez then proceeded to speak at the top of their voices at the same time.

To make them stop, Gonzales threatened not to recognize either of them.

"Okay, Mr. Speaker. Please recognize me," Dilangalen pleaded.

He was given five minutes, and then two minutes more, to wrap up his arguments.

Seeing that the discussion was leading nowhere, Gonzales suspended the session.

And the lawmakers, minus Dilangalen, trooped to the newly built building inside the Batasan complex to attend an early-evening inauguration ceremony led by Ms Macapagal.

Premature thanks

The President delivered a speech after cutting the ribbon at around 6:30 p.m. and thanked the lawmakers present for confirming Guingona's nomination.

"I thank you for the all-out support that you have given this administration, as well as the confirmation of my nominee for Vice President five minutes ago. Thank you very much," she said.

A collective murmur rose among the lawmakers seated at tables surrounding the stage where Ms Macapagal made the announcement.

Many surmised that she might have assumed that the resolution confirming Guingona's nomination had already been passed because of the lateness of the hour.

The House session began at 4 p.m. Speaker Feliciano Belmonte announced before it began that the Guingona resolution was a priority measure.

After hearing Ms Macapagal's expression of gratitude, Belmonte said it put more pressure on the congressmen to pass the resolution confirming Guingona's nomination.

Intensity

In explaining his conditional "yes" vote, Enrile recalled the tense moment between himself and Guingona.

"I will miss the company of the minority leader when he leaves. I will probably miss the sharpness of his glare, but he will equally miss the intensity of my look," Enrile said.

Guingona said he would miss the laughter he shared with his colleagues during plenary, committee and personal meetings.

"Most of all, I will miss the friendship that prevails. For even in the most animated of debates, which is the essence of the Senate sworn to do our job as we see fit, we remained friends," he said.

It was Flavier who filed Senate Resolution No. 932 seeking Guingona's confirmation.

Guingona "possesses sterling qualities of true statesmanship, having served the government in various capacities, among others as delegate to the Constitutional Convention, chair of the Commission on Audit, executive secretary, justice secretary, senator, which qualities merit his nomination," the resolution read.

In her nomination speech, Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste, a contender for the vice presidency, extolled Guingona's courage and consistency.

She recalled that Guingona was a leading dissenter during the Marcos dictatorship and went to jail for his stance.

"From the barricades of martial law to the ramparts of Edsa Dos, Senator Guingona has struggled constantly to impose himself on events that tended to subvert the national interest or threatened our social and political fabric," Legarda-Leviste said.

She added: "It was his brief and stunning 'I accuse' privilege speech that triggered the end of the Estrada administration as well as the redemption of our democratic institutions."

Senators Renato Cayetano, Raul Roco, Rodolfo Biazon, Francisco Tatad and Flavier seconded the sponsorship speech.

Pleasure

Tatad, speaking for the opposition, said he was genuinely pleased to see Guingona rise to Vice President "at a time like this."

But he warned: "It is always wise not to believe everything you hear."

In her conditional vote, Santiago said she wanted to be consistent with her position that Ms Macapagal was only acting President.

"In my reading of the Constitution, the incumbent is serving as an acting President. An acting President cannot have a Vice President. Therefore I am voting for the nominee as an acting Vice President," Santiago said.

She also said a Vice President could only become President in case of death, permanent disability, removal from office or resignation of the President.

None of these obtains, she said.

As her second point, Santiago said, "an action has already been filed by Mr. Estrada and is now pending in the Supreme Court . . .

"I need to make this reservation in order that my 'yes' vote for a colleague, whom I have always liked and with whom I have always entertained an exemplary working relationship in this chamber . . ., that this 'yes' vote is not intended to be prejudicial in any matter to the eventual action of the (tribunal)."

As for Enrile, he said he voted "in favor, subject to the caveat" arising from the legal question pending at the high court.

Hurt feelings

Ms Macapagal's spokesperson, Renato Corona, said the other contenders for the vice presidency were nursing hurt feelings over her choice of Guingona. But Corona said such feelings were "normal" and were bound to dissipate.

He told radio dzRH that Ms Macapagal had foreseen how her announcement of her choice of Guingona would affect the other contenders—Senators Aquilino Pimentel, Franklin Drilon, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Roco and Legarda-Leviste.

"She knows that when she announced her plan for the Vice President, those who were not chosen will be sore and will harbor ill-feelings toward her in one way or another," he said.

He added that they were expected to get over it because they were "responsible" and "patriotic."

But Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin is pleased with Ms Macapagal's choice of Guingona, according to Msgr. Socrates Villegas, his spokesperson.

Villegas told the INQUIRER that while Sin had yet to issue a formal statement on the matter, the cardinal had always believed in Guingona's integrity.

"Like all the other contenders for the vice presidency, Senator Guingona is a man who is capable of handling the responsibilities that go with the position," he said.

Msgr. Hernando Coronel, media director of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, also hailed the choice of Guingona, but added that the other contenders were also "good choices."

"(Guingona) is from Mindanao, and this can make him an instrument in the government's peace negotiations with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front," Coronel told reporters. ***With reports from Armand Nocum and Norman Bordadora***

A Call to Celebration

A CHALLENGE TO THE ASSUMPTION ALUMNAE

Let us celebrate together
God's Fidelity to us, His People

the Victory of TRUTH AND JUSTICE Against blatant graft and corruption;

We appreciate our ASSUMPTION ION EDUCATION:
"To educate is to set free; to educate is to transform society"

That challenges our ALUMNAE in government, in business, in media, in the arts, at home, in the Church, in Civil Society
to put service above selfish interest.

We honor more than ever Our Foundress, BLESSED MARIE EUGENE,
who reminds us to become Women of Faith, Women of Action;

We support the leadership given to us through People Power II of
PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
and her Priorities of Government:

ALLEVIATE POVERTY ● RAISE MORAL STANDARDS ● DEVELOP A NEW POLITICS ● LEAD BY EXAMPLE

With Mary, Our Lady of the Assumption, we
'engrave in our spirit the love of God and native land'
and seal this pledge of support.

COME AND JOIN US in a Eucharistic Celebration
Anniversary of the Beatification of Blessed Marie Eugenie
Friday, February 9, 2001 ● 11:30 a.m., Mother Rose Hall
Assumption College, San Lorenzo Village, Makati City

Assumption Alumnae Association (AAA) ● Assumption College, Inc. (ACT) ● Religious of the Assumption (RA) ● Community of Assumption Laity (COAL)

SOUTHERN LADIES GOLF

Villaroman leads 'em in Bacolod

VILLAROMAN

CARMELETTE Villaroman, the former world junior champion who won the 1993 Philippine Ladies Open, fired an even-par 54 points yesterday to lead the first round of the 38th Southern Ladies Golf Championship at the Bacolod Golf & Country Club in Bacolod City.

The 23-year-old Canlubang bet, making birdie-birdie-bogey-par in her closing four holes, led defending champion Heidi Chua of Wack Wack by one point in this oldest event for the country's lady parbusters under the auspices of the National Golf Association of the Philippines through NGAP treasurer Alice Andrada.

Lucy Landicho, another Canlubang hotshot, was three points behind with a 51 in the three-day series that stakes a Mizuno golf set as a hole-in-one prize in any of the course's four par-3s.

Two more Canlubang parbusters were right behind Landicho—Lina de Guzman at 50 and Aileen Chua at 49 in a deadlock with Riviera's Loralie Roberto.

Chua, the only non-member of the national training pool among the Top 6 finishers, blazed home with a birdie-par-birdie finish for her 53 for a 2-point margin over Landicho in the series using the Molave point system in the regular women's event.

Betsy Tuason of Wack Wack had a 49 to pace the Seniors Event (50 years and above), which is being introduced for the first time in the tournament that drew close to 110 participants from across the archipelago, including Bukidnon's Eva Miñoza, mother of the illustrious Frankie Miñoza.

Aloma Lopez trailed Tuason by three points with 46 and Orchard's Millica Ivanovic was third at 45 in this new division using the PAL points system with net handicap in the series sponsored by DHL, DPC, Hidden Spring, PAL, VF Belmonte Corp., Philippine Sports Commission, Bacolod Executive Inn and Master Sports.

Wack Wack 4 (Tuason, Chua and Ester Garcia 42) led the team standings with 131, followed by Wack Wack 3 (Lopez, Vicky Farrales 38, Menchie Millonado 33) with 127 and Wack Wack 1 (Aurora Abejo 43, Farrah Imperial 41, Nits Atendido 37) with 121.

The rest of the Championship Division (0-10 handicap) are Therese Dabao of Sta. Elena (47), Anya Tanpinco of Bacolod (45), Carina Ricamonte of Sta. Elena (44), Tracy Locsin of Iloilo (42), Shella Dollosa of Bacolod (40), Ruby Chico Walker of Canlubang (36) and Marjorie Lopingco of Alabang (29).

Other results:

Class A: M. Lustre (Negros) 46, J. Garcia (Negros) 43), C. Antonio (Villamor) 41.

Class B: C. Co (Lanang) 46, M. Millonado (Wack Wack) 46, A. Ibo (Riviera) 41.

Class C: G. Banas (Bacolod) 41, V. Moraza (Cebu) 31, A. Escano (Cebu) 31.

Cage row probers endorse snap polls

By June Navarro

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee Arbitration Committee has recommended the holding of a snap election to settle the leadership squabble in the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

According to Quintellano 'Tiny' Literal, head of one of the BAP factions, the arbitration committee reached this decision after secretary general Graham Lim and executive vice president lawyer Bonifacio Alentajan gave their testimonies yesterday.

Literal said the elections, where he would be pitted against ousted BAP president Freddie Jalasco for the top post, is tentatively set for Feb. 18 in Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

The BAP national board has actually rejected Jalasco in two special elections, but POC president Celso Dayrit has yet to recognize the legitimacy of Literal's presidency.

Jalasco was also present during the two-hour hearing.

Altura said he will submit the committee's findings to the POC executive board, which will meet on Friday.

The executive board will then approve the arbitration committee's recommendations, paving the way for an election.

Altura's committee, composed of football's Rene Adad, rowing's Benjie Ramos and Tom Carrasco of triathion, also tackled the leadership dilemma in weightlifting but adjourned the hearing after Philippine Weightlifting Association chair Narciso Aliño failed to show up.

Aliño, who is based in Cebu, said he would send a position letter to the committee to air his views.

"We don't believe a position letter has its merits but out of 'delicadeza' we will wait for his letter and assess the matter," said PWA president Rodones Sicat.

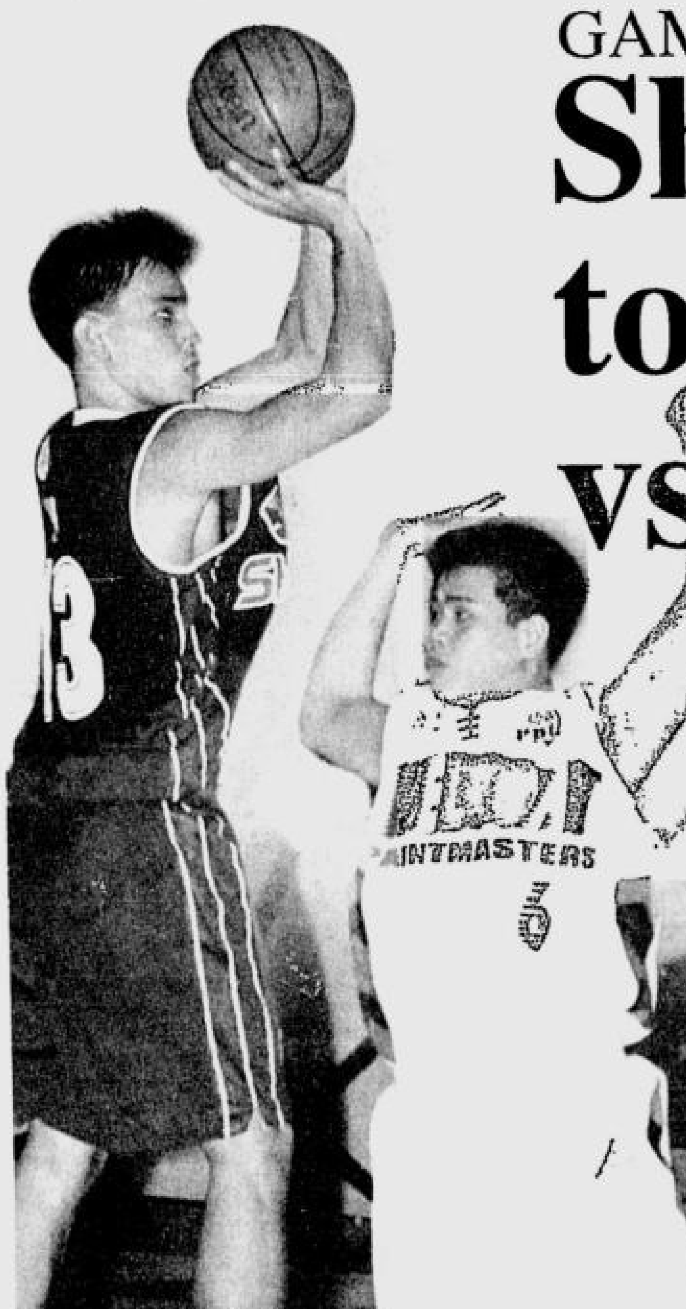
In cycling, POC president Celso Dayrit said he would facilitate a face-off between protagonists Ponciano Regalado and Danao City representative Ramonito Durano III to be witnessed by Frank Elizalde, International Olympic Committee representative to the Philippines.

Roligon meet

AFTER separating the men from the boys, the finals of the historic Roligon Mega Cockpit 11th Grand Anniversary 7-Cock Derby kicks off tonight with the first group of qualifiers shooting not only for the top honors but also for the day's champion prizes.

"This is the moment of truth. With the quality of roosters that are set to compete tonight, you can expect that every fight will be a classic," said cockfighting expert Freddie Yulo.

Set to provide the sparks this evening are Danilo Hinlo, Jun Topacio, Dennis del Rosario, Dong Lacson, Boboy de los Santos, Pol Estrellado, Julie Cui, Agilawan entry, Boy Lechon, Tiny Meneses, Danny Ty and Bobby Seelin.


SHARK hotshot Roger Yap (left) takes aim off Welcoat's Eugene Tan during Game 3 of their PBL Challenge Cup Finals Tuesday night. Shark won, 65-50.
ROGER MARGALLO

GAME 4 TODAY

Shark aims to tie series vs Welcoat

GAMES TODAY
3:30 p.m.—RP Team vs Montana (Exhibition)
5:30 p.m.—Welcoat vs Shark

By Roy Luarca

SHARK wants another bite at Welcoat when they collide in Game Four of the PBL Challenge Cup finals at 5:30 p.m. today.

The Power Boosters finally shattered the Paintmasters' invincibility with a 65-50 victory Tuesday night, slashing their deficit to 2-1 and giving the best-of-seven series new color at the Makati Coliseum.

"This was a breakthrough win for us," said Shark coach Leo Austria. "We avoided the ignominy of another sweep by Welcoat and shifted momentum to our side."

Austria was referring to the 4-0 humiliation dealt Shark by Welcoat in the Chairman's Cup championships and the Paintmasters' 12-game winning streak in league finals, including the 72-59 and 92-86 conquest of the Power Boosters in Games One and Two.

The Power Boosters jumpstarted to a 14-0 lead and then frustrated the Paintmasters with their well-oiled offense anchored on board dominance and better field goal percentage in Game Three.

Ironically, it was the small men who did the work in Shark's 41-35 edge off both boards.

Michael Robinson, barely 5-foot-9, and 6-footer Roger Yap collared eight rebounds each as the Power Boosters defied the intimidating presence of 6-foot-8 Yancy de Ocampo to make up for their rebounding deficiency in Games One and Two

Eroa Press Corps head

DENNIS Eroa of the Philippine Daily Inquirer was elected new president of the Philippine Basketball League Press Corps during the election held yesterday at the Makati Coliseum.

It will be the second time Eroa will assume the post since he got the mandate of the PBL media in 1996. Also elected were Joey Villar of Philippine Star, vice-president; Mae Ochoa of Pilipino Star, secretary; Malou Aquino of Abante, treasurer; and Russel Cadayona of Balita, auditor.

NBA ROUNDUP

Battle of top teams: Bucks nip Kings

MILWAUKEE—In a game between division leaders, the Milwaukee Bucks withstood a furious fourth-quarter rally by the Sacramento Kings to win 112-109 in the NBA Tuesday.

Sam Cassell scored 29 points for Central Division leader Milwaukee, and Ray Allen added 28 and Predrag Stojakovic finished with 23 points. The Bucks led almost the entire game, trailing just once, at 36-35, although Sacramento's tenacious defense nearly allowed it to overcome a 16-point fourth-quarter deficit.

The Kings' Chris Webber had 39 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists. Sacramento's loss put idle Portland atop the Pacific Division.

Pistons 94, Nuggets 83

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Jerry Stackhouse scored 24 points and Mateen Cleaves added 13 as the Detroit Pistons ended a six-week home losing streak with a 94-83 victory over the Denver Nuggets.

Detroit, snapping an eight-game home losing streak, had not won at home since beating Boston 101-96 on Dec. 26. Joe Smith added 12 points for the Pistons.

Antonio McDyess led Denver with 22 points and 11 rebounds. Nick Van Exel scored 22 for the Nuggets, who have lost seven of eight on the road.

McDyess limped off the court with an apparent left-knee injury with 9:54 left. McDyess was coming around a screen when his knee buckled. He returned to the game after missing three minutes.

Magic 109, Hornets 83

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Tracy McGrady scored 26 points as the Orlando Magic stretched its winning streak to a season-high five games.

Mike Miller finished with 17 points and Darrell Armstrong added 13 as the Magic shot 60-percent in the second half, including 6-of-9 from 3-point range.

Baron Davis led the Hornets with 18 points. Eddie Robinson added 13 points and Jamal Mashburn finished with 12.

The 26-point defeat was the largest this season for the Charlotte Hornets, who have lost four straight games.

Heat 102, Pacers 89

In Miami, Anthony Mason scored a season-high 29 points as the Heat dealt Indiana its sixth loss in seven games.

Brian Grant scored 19 points for the Miami Heat, who shot 52 percent.

Al Harrington, making only his fifth start this season for Indiana, scored a career-high 20 points. Reggie Miller, who has been slowed by back spasms, played 41 minutes but scored just nine points.

The game ended with Miami's Tim Hardaway and Miller shouting taunts at each other as the clock ran out. Both players were restrained by teammates.

Suns 97, Bulls 80

In Phoenix, Jason Kidd and Cliff Robinson ignited a third-quarter outburst as the Suns handed Chicago its 16th straight loss.

Kidd scored all eight of his points and had eight of his 11 assists in the third quarter.

Robinson, in his first game since his arrest early Monday on suspicion of driving under the influence and marijuana possession, scored 12 of his 18 points in the third.

Shawn Marion had 17 points and 13 rebounds for the Suns. Rodney Rogers scored 15 and Tony Delk 11.

Complete results:

Orlando 109, Charlotte 83; Detroit 94, Denver 83; New Jersey 90, Atlanta 84; Miami 102, Indiana 89; Milwaukee 112, Sacramento 109; Phoenix 97, Chicago 80.

AP

Delasins join clamor to amend sports bill

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THERE is a need to write about the sports incentives bill for athletes again and again and again. Why? Because the bill–unless amended–will punish instead of emulate great Filipino athletes, in particular golfer Dorothy Delasin, bowler Paeng Nepomuceno and billiards champion Efren "Bata" Reyes, whose events are not in the Olympic calendar. The bill should level the playing field.

Lawmakers should not penalize Delasin for shooting birdies. The nation admires her. We try to produce more players like her. And we want to motivate others like her. And that's why the Philippine Sportswriters Association named her PSA Athlete of the Year.

Last July, 20-year-old Dorothy Delasin won the Giant Eagle Classic to become the youngest golfer to top an LPGA (Ladies Professional Golfers Association) event since LPGA Hall of Famer Amy Alcott won the Orange Blossom Classic in 1975. That stirring triumph also boosted her bid in the prestigious Rolex Rookie of the Year race where she beat Korea's highly fancied Grace Park for top honor.

On the sports incentives measure, Dorothy's father, Sonny Delasin, bemoaned the discriminatory features of the bill, noting the unequal treatment given to champions of non-Olympic sports, including golf.

"This is unfair not only to golf, but to the others as well," said Sonny, who is scheduled to accompany Dorothy during a courtesy call on President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo later this month.

As things now stand, the world-class exploits of golfer Delasin, bowler Nepomuceno and billiards hotshot Bata Reyes will not be recognized by the authors of the bill because their sports are non-Olympic events. It would now appear that these sports legends have accomplished nothing since they would not receive the recognition they deserve. Where is justice here?

* * *

SPORTS TRIVIA. The first World Basketball Championship was held at a decrepit, wire-encased court at the Luna Park Stadium in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from Oct. 22 to Nov. 3, 1950. Ten teams participated in the inaugural WBC, with N. Popovic of Yugoslavia scoring the first point during the Yugoslavia-Peru game won by Peru, 33-27. Argentina captured the crown by nosing out the United States, 64-50, in the final after taking a 34-24 lead at halftime. Argentina swept the six-team final round with an unbeaten 5-0 record. The US wound up with a 4-1 slate, followed by Chile at third with a 2-3 card, Brazil Egypt and France. Even then, politics reared its ugly head. Enemies of the Peron regime, who had found asylum in Uruguay, used commercial radio stations in Montevideo to criticize government of Argentina. In retaliation, Argentina did not grant entry visas to media people, including broadcasters, from Uruguay. This prompted Uruguay to withdraw its team from the tournament. The maiden men's World Basketball Championship was first conceived during the 1948 Olympic Games in London under the aegis of the FIBA (International Amateur Basketball Federation), the governing body for basketball. Inevitably, a world women's tournament followed, with Chile chosen as the host-country of the meet in 1953.

* * *

For inquiries, call fax/phone (044) 933-1214 or EasyCall 141-267284.

Ucap derby finals tonite

THE 4TH Ucap/CPB-PBRJ farm 6-Cock Derby championship round unfolds at Mandaluyong Coliseum beginning at 6 tonight with more than 45 fights on tap. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Lakpue Drug Inc.

Currently leading the pack with two victories each are Esting Teopaco and Capt. Ben Rodriguez (EGT Stingers), Mario Villamor and Tito Reyes (Phoenix TR), Pepito Ngo (Mr. Fatman), Vic Yu (King Boxer), Ucap president Butch Macasaet and Joey delos Santos (BJ Greenwood), Boyboy Roa and Mayor Claudy Bautista (PBRJ Farm) and engineer Gerry Fevidal (Geran).

Meanwhile, the much-awaited RLB 12th Annual Valentine's 7-Cock Derby hosted by popular Fil-Am cocker Richard Bates is set at Mandaluyong Coliseum this coming Monday and Wednesday, Feb. 12 and 14.

Submission of weights is on Sunday, Feb. 11, from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. For other inquiries, please contact 747-4797, 534,4110, 531-4003 and 531-4005.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled By Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: US NCAA - Virginia Cavaliers vs NC State Wolfpack at 8 a.m. (r- 4 p.m.), Duke Blue Devils vs Clemson Tigers at 10 a.m. (r –tomorrow at 3:30 a.m.) on ESPN

NBA – Sacramento Kings vs Minnesota Timberwolves at 5:30 p.m. on IBC 13

Harlem Globetrotters 75th Anniversary at 8:30 p.m. on ESPN

GOLF: Golfglobe 2001 at 7 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

Heineken Classic 2001, Final Day at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

PGA Phoenix Open Highlights at 4 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

BOXING: Friday Night Fights at 6 p.m. (r) on ESPN

Cheap advise

WHAT CAN I SAY

Bebo Quiros

As we mentioned last week, the cheapest commodity in the bloodstock business is advice. Most newcomers eventually leave the business, victims of bad advise. Investors that eventually stay for the long term are those that do their homework, patiently searching out good advise, or are held by the hand by the more successful players in the industry.

What galls us the most is the swagger of those newcomers, whose only cachet to their credit, is the size of their wallets, whose approach to the thoroughbred is purely ego, bent on filling up newly purchased stables and farms with bloodstock as decrepit as their mindsets. More often than not, it's money down the drain. It isn't very difficult to measure their success rate. Many of these newcomers with large pocketbooks often pick the sleaziest of trainers and bloodstock advisers. For sure, they won't be around for too long. The number of ex-horseowners is legion.

We tip our hats to the real students of the breed. They pour over their breeding manuals, read their industry publications, sit at their computers and surf the net. They spend time at their farms watching mares grow fat and newborn foals stretch newfound legs in mindless play. They also get up at the crack of dawn and manage an early cup of coffee with their trainers at the track, patiently waiting for their horses to come right.

They know the exact make up of their balance sheet, knowing that every broodmare, every racehorse is a mini-factory. Their income statement tells them which mare is a cost center, which mare is a profit center, which racehorse is earning enough to pay for its oats, which one is destined for the glue factory. The more we understand of this business, and it is a business, not a hobby, the more we will eventually know whether to carry on or fold up. We know the feeling. We've been at this critical juncture many a time. We've just done our homework a little bit better. We never did settle for cheap advice. Or give it.

STALLION PICKS FOR 2001

As you can tell by now, using animals of proven pedigree is paramount for breeding programs to carry on. A dash of quality racetrack performance would help. Picking stallions that meet both criteria is difficult under Philippine conditions. There are not that many to choose from.

One such stallion is Yonder, Rolling Green Farms foundation sire. A Claiborne-bred Seattle Slew out of Far, a Forli half-sister to the great European champion race horse and sire, Caerleon. Yonder is a foal of 1987, one of the many successful racehorses that trace to the immortal La Troienne.

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Lauda back in Formula One

LONDON —Three-time series champion Niki Lauda is back in Formula One. The 51-year-old Austrian took over Tuesday as the chief executive of a newly created Ford Motor Company division that will direct Jaguar's Formula One racing team with a contract through the 2003 season. "When I was racing I did everything at full throttle whilst many of the others kept their foot on the brake," Lauda said. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

Marcelo rules Class A

DING Marcelo, sports editor of Bulletin, fired a net 61 to rule Class A of the PSA Golf Cup, which kicked off its 11-leg series with Mobiline as sponsor at Club Intramuros yesterday. A 15-handicapper, Marcelo carded nines off 38-38 to beat Dodo Catacutan, also of Bulletin (66) and PBA's Musong Castillo (70) for the top plum in the 18-hole event held in cooperation with PBA commissioner Jun Bernardino and PBA chair Ignatius Yenko.

Red Bull trims sluggish Shell, 76-60

Games tomorrow: (Philsports)
5:15 p.m.–Sta. Lucia vs Tanduay
7:30 p.m.–Alaska vs Ginebra

By Marc Anthony Reyes

BATANG Red Bull's bench rose to the occasion, bringing down sluggish Shell Velocity, 76-60, last night to post its first win in the PBA All Filipino Cup at Philsports.

Willie Miller, Kerby Raymundo and Lordy Tugade embodied the Thunder's exuberance, dashing through the court and tiring out the normally unyielding Zoom Masters.

"It was our defense that carried us through," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao, whose win tied them with Shell at 1-1.

The Thunder's youthful energy, shown in their willingness to take baskets at will, more than made up for their 38 percent shooting clip.

"I'm giving my players the chance to jell so I gave them more playing time," added Guiao, referring to Miller and Raymundo.

Miller responded by making 11 points, while Tugade and Raymundo scored six and five points, respectively, most of them in the fourth when Shell was trying to fight back.

The Zoom Masters crept to within 51-45 but that was mainly because of just one man–Mark Telan–and not their collective effort.

Telan scored 21 points as he tried to single-handedly carry the fight for Shell but his teammates were obviously not into it.

Red Bull's usual hitters Mick Pennisi and Devonn Harp were at the forefront of the scoring, firing 13 and 12 points, respectively.

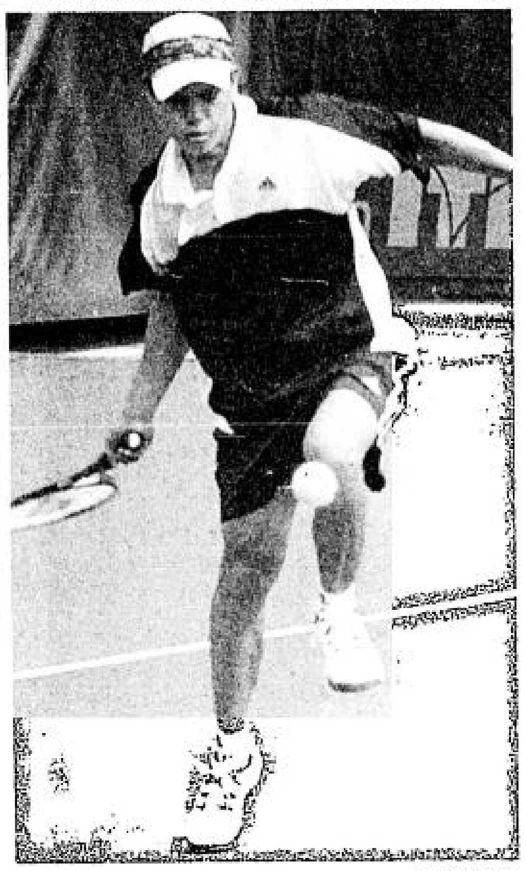
But it was Harp's 22 rebounds that created damage in Shell's inside game.

Mobiline quashed Pop Cola's fourth quarter comeback for a 79-72 victory in the second game. The Phone Pals squandered a 17-point lead but had enough poise to.post their first win in two games, tying the Panthers.

RED BULL 76—Pennisi 13, Harp 12, Miller 11, Valenzuela 9, Reyes 8, Agustin 6, Briones 6, Tugade 6, Raymundo 5, Mendoza 0.

SHELL 60—Telan 21, Paras 12, Marzan 8, Jackson 6, Hrabak 5, Dela Cruz 3, Wainwright 2, Singson 2, Esplana 1, Lim 0.

Quarters: 23-14, 34-29, 51-42, 76-60.



ERIK ARAZAS

RP CUPPER

Johnny Arcilla of the Philippines returns a shot to Yaun Xian Hui of Singapore at the start of their Asia Oceania Zone Group III Davis Cup tie yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Arcilla won, 4-0, 4-2, 4-2, to pave the way for the Filipinos' 3-0 shutout of their rivals. The RP Cuppers gun for a semis seat when they face Bahrain today.

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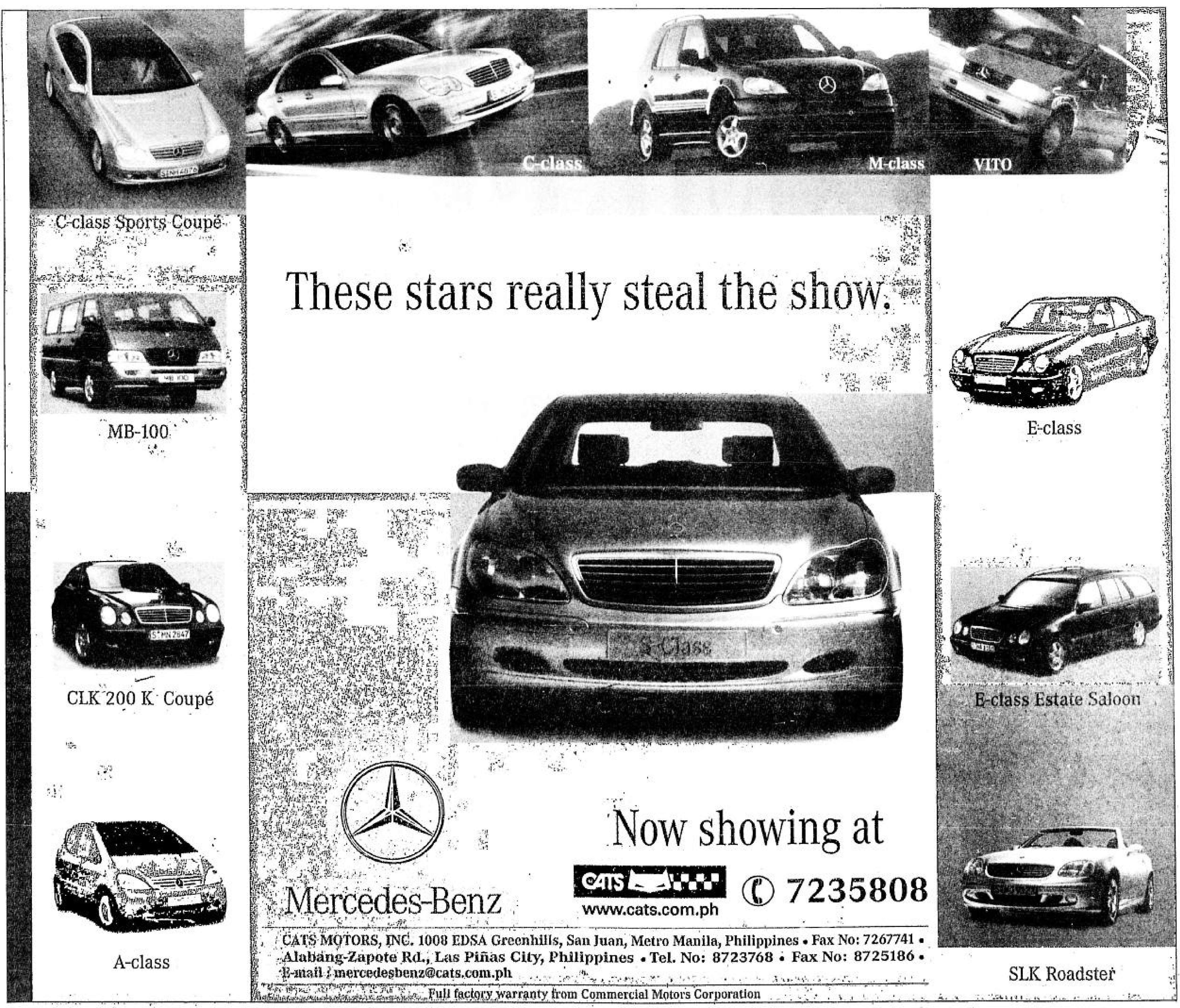
THURSDAY, February 8 [illegible]



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On Target: Give Lucio Tan a break A24

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Van at CCP Complex yields dead couple A24

UP president dares ex-student regent to surrender P15M

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

SURRENDER the money and face the music.

University of the Philippines President Francisco "Dodong" Nemenzo yesterday made this challenge to the university's former Student Regent Hannah Eunice Serana, who is accused of stealing P15 million in public funds.

Nemenzo told reporters in a news conference that Serana had assured UP Vice President for Administration Martin Gregorio and other UP professors that the money "is intact."

"I got that through a text (message)," the UP president said. "I said she should give back the money right away to the university so that it could be returned to the Presidential Management Staff.

"She should also give up the interest which I'm sure is already big," Nemenzo added.

He said surrendering the money would be a mitigating factor in the charges filed against Serana. But as of yesterday afternoon, the former student regent has not yet replied.

Nemenzo said UP administration officials are in contact with Serana.

On Tuesday, current Student Regent Kristine Clare Bugayong and Kasama sa UP, an alliance of UP student councils, filed charges of malversation of public funds against Serana before the Office of the Ombudsman.

They accused Serana, a senior political science student of UP Cebu, of embezzling P15 million in presidential funds earmarked for the renovation of Vinzons Hall Annex at UP in Diliman, Quezon City.

The UP administration has set up a fact-finding committee to determine the culpability of Serana and her alleged accomplices, Nemenzo said.

"If there is prima facie evidence, then the Student Disciplinary Tribunal would take her case," he said. "If found guilty, she could face the highest penalty, which is expulsion."

Nemenzo said more charges would be filed later against Serana.

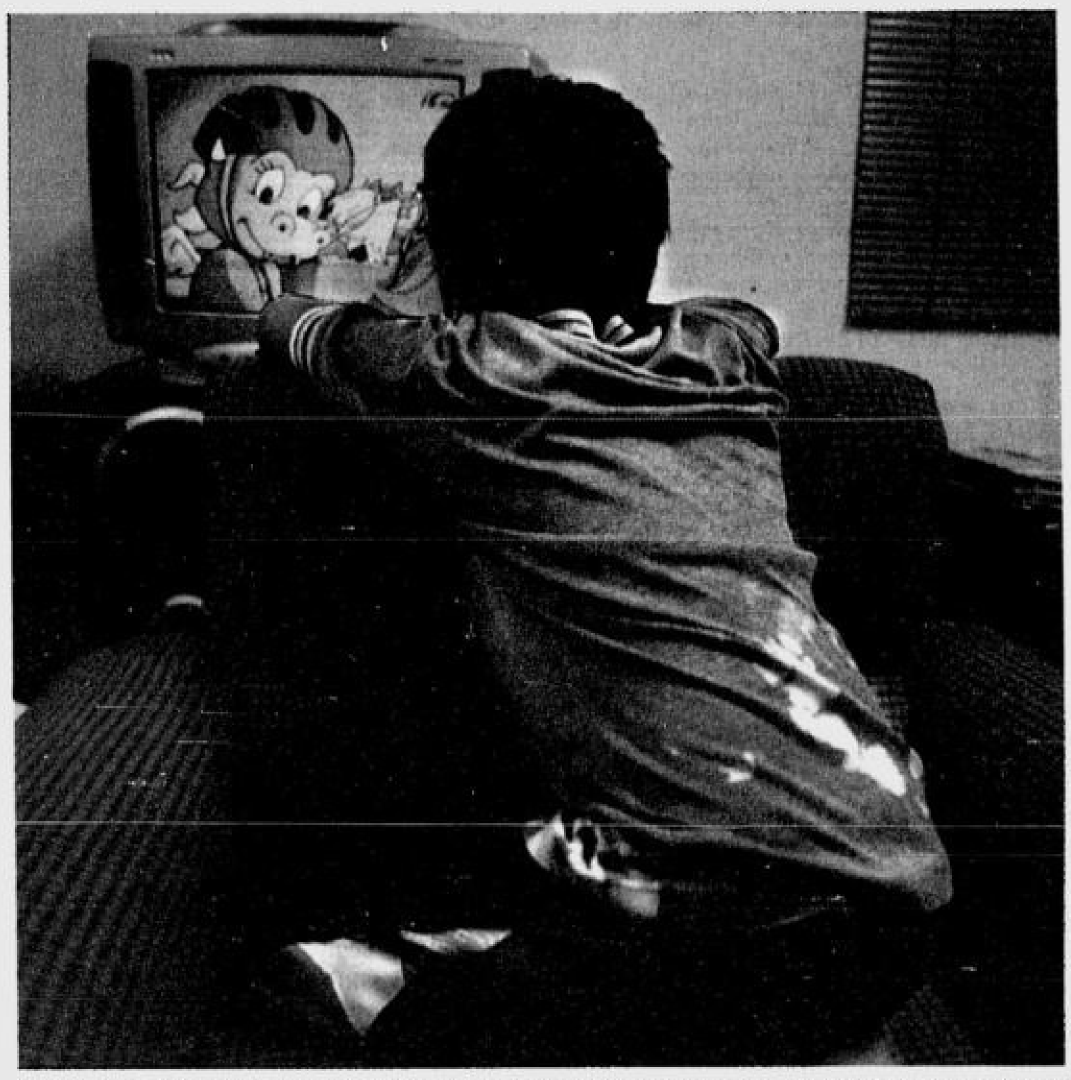
He said the former student regent showed him model plans for the renovation of Vinzons Hall Annex sometime in "October or September last year."

But Nemenzo said he "did not look at them," but he advised her to instead work with the UP architect.

The UP president said Serana also mentioned to him her foundation—the Office of the Student Regent Foundation.

But Nemenzo said he discouraged her from setting up a foundation without the university's approval, especially when UP's name is used.

"She did not know what she was going to do," he said. "I did not know that the money was given to the foundation."



YOUNG and detained, the suspected drug courier watches cartoons on TV in the office of the Taguig police chief. Police say he was the same boy who was caught driving a bus in Monumento, Caloocan City last December. ERNIE SARMIENTO

Couple to sue MMDA, DPWH, Makati for son's road death

BY NINI VALERA

FOR several weeks now, late-night motorists who want to pass the southbound tunnel on Edsa near the corner of Ayala Avenue in Makati have been complaining about the makeshift barricade that blocks the tunnel entrance and about the darkness of the tunnel itself.

Worse, they also complain that the barricade could be a deathtrap as the tunnel is not well lighted and there is no early warning device to alert motorists that the passage is not passable.

On Sunday, the tunnel claimed the life of Michael Jose Lapuos, 20, of Morato Street in Dasmariñas Village, Makati City. He would have graduated this June at the De La Salle University (DLSU) where he was taking up Computer Science.

Lapuos was driving a Honda Civic with his childhood friend Jacklyn Roldan. They were on their way to Parañaque when his car crashed into

COUPLE/ A24

LAPUOS

Boy, 9, used as drug courier

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

CHILDREN are not spared in the illicit drug trade.

Agents of the Metro Manila Narcotics Office (MMNO) on Tuesday afternoon arrested a 9-year-old Grade I pupil in a buy-bust operation in Quezon City.

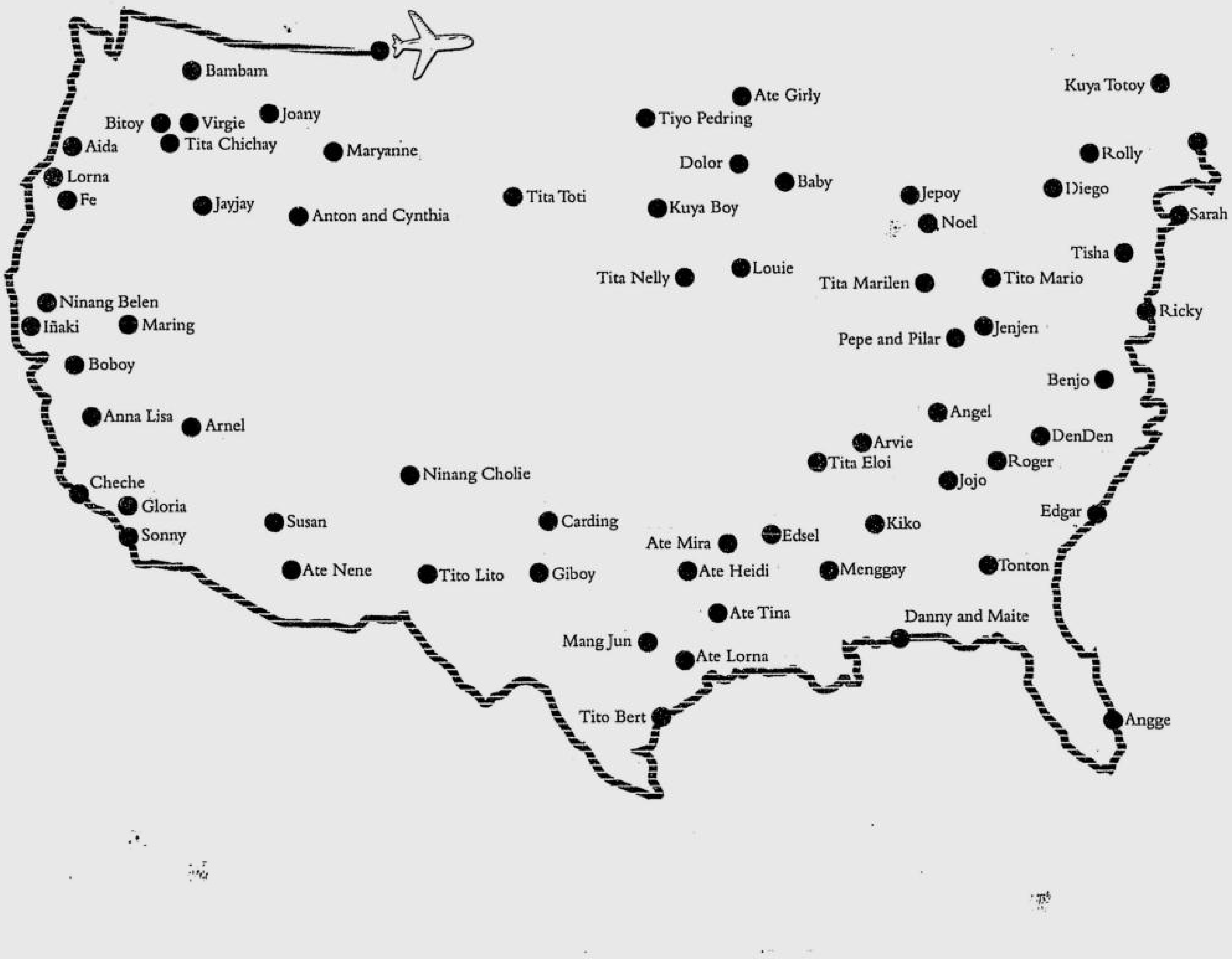
The policemen said they caught the boy, a resident of Barangay Payatas, Quezon City, and confiscated from him 300 grams of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) near the McDonald's branch near Ever-Gotesco Commonwealth.

Supt. Pepito Domantay, MMNO chief, said his men later arrested the boy's "handlers," John Kulam Masser, 22, Jun F. Torres, 30, and Yolanda T. Francisco, 52, all of Payatas after the boy pointed at them as the ones who gave him the drugs, Domantay added.

The boy was walking home at about 6 p.m. Tuesday when the two men and the woman approached him and offered to treat him to snacks.

He said they brought him to McDonald's and told him that all he had to do was give a package to a man

BOY, 9/ A24



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Van at CCP Complex yields dead couple

THE DECOMPOSING bodies of a couple yesterday morning were found inside a van parked at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) Complex in Pasay City.

The bodies were of Rommel Pagunawan, 27, married, of Obrero Street, Barangay Olympia, Makati City; and college student Michelle Diego, 22, single, of J.P. Rizal Street, also in Barangay Olympia, according to SPO1 Norilo Francisco.

The bodies were found by vendor Buenvenido Almonte, 42, police said.

Francisco said the bodies were in the back of a Nissan Vanette van (TLT-824).

The vehicle was parked at the corner of Guerrero and Palisoc streets inside the CCP Complex.

The bodies were found about 9:15 a.m.

Vendor Almonte told police he saw the van and decided to inspect it. He said he smelled an overwhelming stench while he was still a few meters away from the van, which had its engine running. He said he peeked inside and saw the bodies.

Pasay police said they learned that the van entered the complex at about 9 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 4. They said the couple could have died from carbon monoxide poisoning from fumes that could have entered the van.

No injuries were found on the bodies, which police said effectively ruled out foul play. But police said they would still investigate the case closely. *Alcuin Papa*

POLICEMEN and kibitzers had to cover their noses before approaching the van where the lovers were found.

CALOY SANCHEZ

Landfill reopening is only option for Metro, says Abalos

By Amy Bainbridge

THERE is no option for the Metro Manila Development Authority than to ask the Supreme Court to reopen the San Mateo Sanitary Landfill, according to MMDA chair Benjamin Abalos.

Abalos yesterday said he would ask the Office of the Solicitor General to file a motion of reconsideration to lift the restraining order that prevents the MMDA from using the San Mateo dumpsite. Since the San Mateo landfill was shut on Jan. 25, more than 30,000 tons of garbage has built up in Metro Manila streets.

"San Mateo is the only landfill that has the approval of the Department of Natural Resources and has all the health and sanitation precautions," Abalos said.

He admitted Manila was "stinking with garbage" and said that was why he would do his "very best" to have the temporary restraining order on the use of San Mateo lifted.

The MMDA chair said San Mateo would be used as a temporary landfill only until "everything is in place for the putting up of facilities for segregation and composting." He said this would take about three to six months.

"You have to use technology but it will take time for this to be in place," he said.

"Hopefully they (the Supreme Court) will look in seriousness at the problem that Metro Manila is facing."

He said the past administration had left him with no fallback position to solve the garbage problem. He said his "hands were tied" with restraining orders.

"Let's face it, our problem is the site where we will bring our garbage," Abalos said. "We're not talking of one ton or two tons, we're talking of thousands of tons. This is the whole trouble."

Earlier this week, Abalos said a temporary processing plant would be opened at an undisclosed location to process raw materials.

"We have appointed an area but you still need to have a Department of Environment and Natural Resources clearance and an environmental compliance certificate (ECC)," Abalos said.

He said the problem was that every site with an ECC had met political resistance because the term "dumpsite" scared people.

"I do not want to mention any place (for the processing plant) without a contract," he said. "We first have to educate the people in the area we have targeted.

"Even if the government wants to use the place, if the people refuse, then they cannot."

Abalos said the MMDA was open to alternative technologies that are compliant with the Clean Air Act.

"We have not closed the doors yet," he said.

Aside from the restraining order on the use of the San Mateo landfill, there are also restraining orders stopping the MMDA from dumping garbage in Antipolo City, Semirara Island in Antique and Capas, Tarlac.

Shot dead while using phone

A SECURITY guard was shot dead while he was using a pay phone in Barangay Payatas, Quezon City Tuesday afternoon.

Habib Laguiab, 41, of San Miguel Extension, Barangay Payatas, Quezon City, did not make it alive to the hospital after six men, identified only as Alikan, Ali, Elias Saro, and three John Does, all of Payatas, ganged up on him, said investigator SPO3 Resty De Leon.

According to Laguiab's companion, identified only as Omah, the security guard was busy calling somebody on a pay phone when the six men approached them at about 4 p.m.

Omah said one of the six men pulled out a gun and shot Laguiab in the back.

Omah told the police he had no choice but to run away. He returned a few minutes later with some other men but the group had already gone, he said.

They brought Laguiab to the Fairview General Hospital where he was declared dead on arrival.

Philip C. Tubeza

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, February 8, 2001
5th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Gen 2:18-25**
Gospel: **Mk 7:24-30**

Jesus went to the border of the Tyrian country. There he entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there, but he could not remain hidden. A woman whose small daughter had an evil spirit, heard of him and came and fell at his feet. Now this woman was a pagan, a Syrophoenician by birth, and she begged him to drive the demon out of her daughter.

Jesus told her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." But she replied, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the crumbs from the children's bread." Then Jesus said to her, "You may go your way; because of such a reply the demon has gone out of your daughter." And when the woman went home, she found her child lying in bed and the demon gone.

Commentary:

I wonder if so-called "Catholic charities" demand a membership card to make sure the charity is dispensed exclusively to Roman Catholics. That would be a funny example of an "uncharitable charity." Mark tells us Jesus is himself thrown off-guard when the Gentile woman describes herself as a dog who is just awaiting the crumbs that fall from the master's table. She bases her hope for her daughter's cure not on right but purely on grace. And the crumbs she awaits are not even for herself but for her sick daughter. Compassion easily transcends the boundaries of race, color, or creed. It was probably on this principle that Paul dared to put forward a vigorous crusade against Jewish exclusivism.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE/EVIDENCE)—Judicial notice of age of rape victim is improper—Judicial notice is the cognizance of certain facts which judges may properly take and act on without proof because they already know them. Under the Rules of Court, judicial notice may either be mandatory or discretionary. Section 1 of Rule 129 of the Rules of Court provides when the court shall take mandatory judicial notice of facts. Section 2 of Rule 128 enumerates the instances when courts may take discretionary judicial notice of facts. In this case, judicial notice of the age of the victim is improper, despite the defense counsel's admission, thereof acceding to the prosecution's motion. As required by Section 3 of Rule 129, as to any other matters such as age, a hearing is required before courts can take judicial notice of such fact. Generally, the age of the victim may be proven by the birth or baptismal certificate of the victim, or in the absence thereof, upon showing that said documents were lost or destroyed, by other documentary or oral evidence sufficient for the purpose. [Citations omitted.] [*En Banc*, Justice Quisumbing, People v. Tundag, G.R. Nos. 135695-96, October 12, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Viera

Give Lucio Tan a break

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

A LOT of people impute less than honorable motives to the Malacañang visit of beer and tobacco tycoon Lucio Tan, a well-known crony of President Erap.

Give the guy a break. He's not bad, he was just in the wrong company.

Tan's visit to President Macapagal was a courtesy call. He led a group of fellow businessmen from the Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce of which he is president.

***

It's customary for business leaders, especially among *Chinoys*, to call on the new leaders in government—be they mayors, governors, and congressmen—in their locality.

The gesture is not bootlicking. It's obeisance or a show of respect for the new leader. The Chinese Filipinos are known for their humility in showing deference to government leaders. Most non-Chinese Filipinos don't have this virtue.

Humility is one of the greatest virtues.

***

OK, Tan has been accused of evading the payment of P25.27 billion in taxes. But the courts have not convicted him of tax evasion.

Besides, he didn't go to Ms Macapagal to ask that the government write off his tax debt.

The billionaire businessman went to Malacañang to pledge the support of the Chinese business community to the new administration.

***

Let's stop persecuting people who were identified with the previous administration. We won't achieve national unity this way.

If those Estrada cronies committed large-scale smuggling and plunder during the time of the incompetent, abusive President, then by all means they should be charged in court along with their erstwhile protector.

But persecuting them just because they were close to Estrada, even if they didn't commit any wrongdoing, smacks of mob mentality.

***

Former Estrada crony Mark Jimenez has found to his dismay that even if he is willing to testify against his former benefactor, he would still be eventually extradited to the United States.

After extracting confessions from him against Estrada, the government would turn Jimenez over to the US courts to face various charges from wire fraud to tax evasion.

The Supreme Court has ruled in favor of his extradition.

What Jimenez, whom Estrada once called a "corporate genius," is doing is just delaying his extradition.

***

If the Philippine National Police (PNP) doesn't do anything drastic, it would find itself faced with kidnappings and bank robberies, especially in Metro Manila.

Kuratong Baleleng, the gang behind many kidnap-for-ransom and bank heists during the Aquino and Ramos administrations, may go back to its old capers. The "peace" pact the gang made with the Estrada government has expired with the ouster of Erap.

The gang made an unwritten pact with the Estrada government to stop their nefarious trade in Metro Manila and nearby provinces. In return, the previous administration allowed the gang to smuggle sugar and rice with impunity in Ozamiz City, its base of operation.

***

My sources say that the unwritten pact with the Kuratong Baleleng was made through presidential crony Charlie "Atong" Ang. Ang had connections with many people in the underworld because he was financing *masiao*, an illegal numbers game in the Visayas and Mindanao.

If you noticed, there were few kidnappings and bank robberies in the metropolis during the more than two years that Estrada was in power. Smaller gangs committed the kidnappings and robberies. Kuratong Baleleng is a big criminal syndicate, which had its beginnings as an anti-communist group.

This early, PNP chief Larry Mendoza should go after the gang hammer and thong. The PNP should strike such a crippling blow to the criminal group that it can no longer bargain with the government.

The Estrada administration made a pact with the Kuratong Baleleng because it was dealing with another criminal organization.

***

The leader of an anti-crime group, which has been lobbying for the recall of the appointment of Mendoza as PNP chief, is motivated by "militics" or military politics. In short, some people within the PNP eyeing the top post are using her.

This is what I gathered from objective observers within the PNP.

The anti-crime group leader's accusation that Mendoza was a friend of the killer of her husband is baseless, according to these objective observers.

"An officer who is very close to her is behind the smear campaign," my Camp Crame spy said.

Suspended cop faces drug, gun charges

By Christian V. Esguerra

A SUSPENDED Navotas policeman is facing criminal charges before the prosecutor's office after he was caught selling methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu during a buy-bust operation.

SPO1 Edgardo Javier, 35, a former member of the Navotas Drug Enforcement Unit, was also found with firearms and a grenade.

He will be charged with violation of the Dangerous Drugs Act and the election gun ban, according to the Navotas police chief, Supt. Roberto Villanueva.

Armando Roque, 29, and an 18-year-old man were also arrested during the buy-bust operation in Daang-Hari, Navotas early this week.

Javier was arrested in the act of handing over three sachets of shabu worth P300 to PO2 Ricky Sta. Isabel, who posed as a buyer, according to initial investigation.

Police said Javier tried to escape when members of the Drug Enforcement Unit were about to handcuff him. They said Javier ran toward his house in Barangay Daang-Hari.

When authorities barged into his house, they found at least five men allegedly having a drug session. Among the men were Roque and the 18-year-old.

The three men, said to be drug addicts, escaped. Police have not identified them.

But police cornered Javier, who eventually surrendered.

Police found on Javier a hand grenade, his service firearm, a Beretta 9-mm pistol, a DT motorcycle with no license plates, seven sachets believed to contain shabu, P3,000, and the P300 used in the buy-bust operation, Villanueva said.

A fan knife was found on Roque.

Villanueva said police placed Javier under surveillance after drug addicts and pushers arrested by police identified the suspended policeman as their supplier of illegal drugs.

Police also theorized that Javier might have been selling illegal drugs seized by the Drug Enforcement Unit during its operations.

Robbers kill designer

A FASHION designer was stabbed dead in a holdup in Quiapo, Manila on Tuesday night.

Lorenzo Liu Jr., 33, of Demetillo Street, Karuhatan, Valenzuela City, died from a stab wound in the chest at the University of Sto. Tomas Hospital.

Liu was waiting for a jeepney about 11 p.m. at the corner of C.M. Recto Avenue and Quezon Boulevard when three unidentified men attacked him, said SPO1 Edgardo Ko of the Western Police District homicide section.

Witnesses said the men, who all looked young, at knife-point told Liu to give up his money and jewelry.

One of the men punched Liu who tried to fight back, and another stabbed him in the chest, witnesses said.

The trio escaped by boarding a jeepney that went toward Legarda Street in Sampaloc.

Concerned pedestrians bought Liu to the hospital where he died after half an hour.

Witnesses also told the police the suspects were holdup men who prey on pedestrians and commuters in the vicinity of the Isetann Department Store on C. M. Recto. *Jerome Aning*

Couple to sue . . .

(From page 23)

(From page A23)

an electric post on Ayala Avenue at about 2:30 a.m.

Roldan, who survived the accident with only minor injuries, told members and friends of the Lapuos family that the young man saw the barricade too late and tried to avoid it by swerving to the right. But he hit the post instead and was unconscious from severe head injuries when he was removed from the car. He died while undergoing treatment at the Makati Medical Center.

Although professors and school officials have assured the young man's mother Chita Lapous that her youngest son would still graduate, there is no bringing back the life the tunnel took.

Yesterday, the young man's remains were cremated at the Loyola Funeral Parlor.

Mrs. Lapous said she would transform her son's death into a purpose: saving other motorists from accidents or even death as they pass through the tunnel. She and her husband Eddy are set to file charges against officials of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Makati City, and the Department of Public Works and Highways, who might be held responsible for the darkness of the tunnel and the lack of an early warning device that would alert motorists that the tunnel is not in use.

But lawyers for the couple are still determining what cases to file and against which officials, considering that MMDA Chair Ben Abalos had only recently taken over the job from Jejomar Binay, under whose term the tunnel turned into a threat.

Wesley Villarica, 20, a close friend of the young Lapuos, yesterday said his buddy would still be alive if not for the stupidity of the people responsible for putting the pylons along Edsa toward the tunnel.

"I passed by the place the other night and the pylons were so dirty that I didn't notice them right away," he said. "The tunnel was also dim. No one could have noticed the barricade easily. Somebody should do something about this."

Villarica, who is also a neighbor of the Lapuos family in Dasmariñas Village, said Michael is making his presence felt among his close friends.

Another friend logged on to the Internet and received a real time message from Michael's address.

"What's up?" the message said.

"This friend got the message when Michael was already dead," Villarica said.

Boy, 9 . . .

(From page A23)

waiting outside the restaurant.

The boy said the three did not tell him what was in the package.

Domantay said the suspects had earlier agreed to sell 300 grams of shabu for P195,000. When they went to the place near McDonald's where the transaction was supposed to take place, the policemen were surprised to see the boy, he added.

Still, they went through the motions of giving the fake marked money (a bundle of pieces of paper between two P500 bills) and getting the drugs, Domantay said.

When the policemen got the package, they confronted the boy. When they told him he was carrying shabu, the boy squealed that the two men and the woman gave him the drugs, Domantay added.

He said his men went after the suspects and caught up with them. The three are now behind bars at the MMNO detention cell at the Kamuning police station.

Police are coordinating with the Department of Social Welfare and Development on what to do with the boy.

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AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL, JR.
Senate President

TO ALL MY SUPPORTERS:

It has always been my honor to serve the Filipino people whom I love. To all of you who gave your support and endorsed my nomination as Vice President, thank you very much for your trust and confidence.

Your kind expression of faith is very much appreciated. The good Lord, however, appears to have other plans which we should not doubt. Let us all support President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her nominee to the vice presidency, Senator Teofisto T. Guingona, Jr. Together, let us continue to work in harmony for the greater glory of God and our country.

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4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) VERTICAL LIMIT
5 VITAL PARTS

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001
1 VITAL PART
2 IKA-7 GLORYA
3 SYOTA NG BAYAN
4 RESERVE
5 PROOF OF LIFE
6 VERTICAL LIMIT
7 BOOBA
8 HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO

Uniwide Metromall
(Las Piñas) tel. 873.5606 loc. 1074
1 HAPDI
2 MALICE 5
3 UNDER COVER KID
4 WATCH 3 MOVIE FOR ONLY P30.00
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Uniwide Coastal Mall
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1 WATCH 3 MOVIE FOR ONLY P30 00
2 SAMBAHIN ANG PURI MO
3 MEN
4 ANINO

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 SUGATANG PUSO
2 REMEMBER THE TITANS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515
1 VIRGIN WIFE (Fiday)
2 IKA-7 GLORYA
3 VERTICAL LIMIT

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864
1 SYOTA NG BAYAN
A IKA-7 GLORYA

JC Cinema
(Parañaque) tel 825.8626
1 BOOBA
3 RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (DOLBY) VITAL PART
2 BOOBA
3 SYOTA NG BAYAN
4 WHAT WOMEN WANT
5 BOUNCE
6 IKA-7 GLORYA
7 (DTS) PROOF OF LIFE
8 (SDDS) THE CONTENDER
9 (DOLBY) VERTICAL LIMIT

Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 IKA-7 GLORYA
3 PROOF OF LIFE
4 VITAL PART
5
6

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 SYOTA NG BAYAN
2 VITAL PART
3 IKA-7 GLORYA
4 (SDDS) BOOBA
5 BOUNCE
6 (DOLBY) VERTICAL LIMIT
7 (DTS) PROOF OF LIFE
8 TABI TABI PO
9 HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 (DTS) PROOF OF LIFE
2 IKA-7 GLORYA
3 TABI TABI PO
4 BOUNCE
5 (SDDS) THE CONTENDER
6 BOOBA
7 (DOLBY) VERTICAL LIMIT
8 SYOTA NG BAYAN

Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 THE CONTENDER
2 BOUNCE
3 (DTS) PROOF OF LIFE
4 SYOTA NG BAYAN
5 (SDDS) VERTICAL LIMIT
6 (DOLBY) BOOBA
7 (DOLBY) IKA-7 GLORYA

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 IKA-7 GLORYA

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 IKA-7 GLORYA

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson IKA-7 GLORYA
Lords TABI TABI PO
Jennet IKA-7 GLORYA

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 IKA-7 GLORYA
2 PROOF OF LIFE
3 THE CONTENDER
4 SYOTA NG BAYAN

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215
1
3 IKA-7 GLORYA

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238
1 PROOF OF LIFE
2 THE CONTENDER
3 BOUNCE
4 SYOTA NG BAYAN
5 VERTICAL LIMIT

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619
1 SYOTA NG BAYAN
2 IKA-7 GLORYA
3 HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO
4 TABI TABI PO
5 THE CONTENDER
6 PROOF OF LIFE

Baclaran LRT Cinema
tel 512.0115 or 512.0116
1 SYOTA NG BAYAN
2 IKA-7 GLORYA
3 PROOF OF LIFE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 SYOTA NG BAYAN
2 HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO
3 (DTS) VITAL PARTS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 SYOTA NG BAYAN
2 (DTS) VITAL PARTS
3 (DOLBY) PROOF OF LIFE
4 MALIKOT ANG AGOS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) VERTICAL LIMIT
2 VITAL PARTS
3 SYOTA NG BAYAN
4 (DTS) PROOF OF LIFE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) VITAL PARTS
2 SYOTA NG BAYAN
3 (DTS) PROOF OF LIFE
4 HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO
5 MALIKOT ANG AGOS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 VIRGIN WIFE (Friday)
2 PROOF OF LIFE
3 VITAL PARTS

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101
1 VIRGIN WIFE (Friday)
2 PROOF OF LIFE
3 VITAL PARTS

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311
1 VERTICAL LIMIT
2 SYOTA NG BAYAN
3 TABI TABI PO

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736
1 PROOF OF LIFE
2 VERTICAL LIMIT
3 HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 VERTICAL LIMIT
2 VIRGIN WIFE
3 IKA-7 GLORYA
4 TABI TABI PO

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 243.2783
1 (DTS) SYOTA NG BAYAN
2 (DTS) VERTICAL LIMIT

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385
1 SYOTA NG BAYAN

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO
2 SYOTA NG BAYAN
3 MALIKOT ANG AGOS

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 SYOTA NG BAYAN
2 PROOF OF LIFE
3 LITTLE NICKY
4 TABI TABI PO

Berma
tel 879.2168
1
2

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1 IKA-7 GLORYA
2 BOOBA
3 TABI TABI PO
4 VERTICAL LIMIT

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1
2
3
4

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a special presentation

Irish actress plays angel in TV series

HER auburn hair and soulful brown eyes perfectly complement her exquisite face. She was once dubbed as one of People Magazine's "50 Most Beautiful People in the World."

Roma Downey, the highly esteemed actress of the phenomenal hit, "Touched by an Angel," was first known for her portrayal as Jacqueline Kennedy in the mini-series, "A Woman Named Jackie." Also known as Monica on screen, the single mom is a graduate of the London Drama Studio and has a long and laudable list of accomplishments as TV and stage actress, producer, author and a lot more.

She got her breakthrough role in 1991 via the show "Disney Presents The 100 Lives of Black Jack Savage." Her most recent assignment is in the movie "Second Honeymoon," a romantic comedy set in an exotic desert island.

Her stage credits include the Broadway production of "The Circle," opposite Rex Harrison and off-Broadway plays such as "Love's Labor's Lost," "Tamara" and "Arms and the Man."

In 1991, Downey merited a best actress nomination in the Helen Hayes Awards for her performance in "The Playboy of the Western World."

Downey, who has scored hoardes of fans worldwide, has this to say about her angel character on TV.

"Playing Monica has made me a better listener, a better person and has enlarged my capacity for compassion," she said.

Downey is a native of Derry City, Northern Ireland. Her biggest inspiration is her dad and her biggest idol when she was growing up was Katharine Hepburn.

Catch Downey as she reprises her role in "Touched By An Angel," to be aired next month on ABC-5.

DOWNEY. Reprises her role in "Touched By An Angel."

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3. WHAT WOMEN WANT
4. VITAL PARTS
5. IKA - 7 GLORYA
6. BOUNCE
7. PROOF OF LIFE

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2. VIRGIN WIFE
3. VITAL PARTS
4. PROOF OF LIFE
5. IKA - 7 GLORYA
6. WAY OF THE GUN

BACOLOD (034)441-0453
1. RED PLANET
2. BALAHIBONG PUSA
3. WONDER BOYS
4. REMEMBER THE TITANS
5. WHIPPED
6. THE YARDS

DOLBY dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	BOOBA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	PROOF OF LIFE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	VITAL PARTS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	WHAT WOMAN WANT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	BOUNCE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	PROOF OF LIFE
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	IKA-7 GLORYA
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	SYOTA NG BAYAN
MIRAMAR	GUSTO KO LANG LUMIGAYA / LA FEMME EROTIQUE
ODEON	PROOF OF LIFE
ODEON-2	VERTICAL LIMIT
ROBEN	SYOTA NG BAYAN
TANDEM-1	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
TANDEM-2	PALIGAYAHIN MO AKO
TIMES	BEDAZZLED / THE WATCHER
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	ANAK NG YAKUSA
ACT-2	ANAK NG KANO
ACT-3	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
ACT-4	TURN ON
CORONET-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
QUEZON-1	TABI TABI PO
REMAR	SYOTA NG BAYAN
REMAR-2	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	IKA-7 GLORYA
OCEAN CINEMA-A	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO
OCEAN CINEMA-B	BUKID AY BASA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	PROOF OF LIFE
CINEMA-2	BOUNCE
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-64091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SYOTA NG BAYAN
CINEMA-2	TABI TABI PO
CINEMA-3	BOOBA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	IKA-7 GLORYA
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-6	BALAHIBONG PUSA
CINEMA-7	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
CINEMA-8	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WHAT WOMEN WANT
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-12	THE CONTENDER
CINEMA-14	VITAL PARTS
CINEMA-15	BOUNCE
LORES	
CINEMA-2	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
CINEMA-3	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	BOUNCE
CINEMA-2	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-3	BOUNCE
CINEMA-4	PROOF OF LIFE
CINEMA-5	CONTENDER
CINEMA-6	WHAT WOMEN WANT

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Feb. 7 - Wed / 8 - Thurs.

6:05 PM - Proof of Life
8:40 PM - Proof of Life
11:15 PM - Proof of Life

CAST AWAY
Tom Hanks / Helen Hunt
opens Wednesday Feb. 14

Get a copy of the 3rd issue of Pelikula! A Journal of Philippine Cinema and learn more about Comedy King Dolphy and other Filipino artist, Movie fans & idols.

Watch out for our 4th issue WOMEN IN CINEMA coming out in March!

Pelikula is one of the beneficiary projects of the LRP Foundation, published jointly with the U-P College of Mass Communication

Hear the Difference, Feel the Excitement

'Paglilitis ni Mang Serapio' comes home to Dulaang Sibol

THREE decades ago, we were among the lucky few who witnessed the first staging of **Paul Dumol**'s "Ang Paglilitis ni Mang Serapio" at the Ateneo High School's new Dulaang Sibol lab theater.

At the time, Paul was "only" a high school student, but his play was wise beyond his years.

It served notice that here was a playwright who would become a major talent in dramatic literature in the years to come.

Today, Paul has more than fulfilled that promise and recognized as one of our best playwrights.

These recollections come to mind because Dulaang Sibol is once again staging Paul's "Paglilitis" at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 9 at the theater group's performing venue at the Ateneo High School.

The play has had quite a prodigious performing history since it was first produced by Dulaang Sibol. It's been staging hundreds of times all over the country, in various modes and adaptations.

Some years ago, we recall, it was even chosen as the competition piece for a national play-production contest, with all competing groups required to mount Paul's one-act play.

Since the material was the same, the groups were judged on the relative merits of their respective mode of staging and interpretation.

Well, "Paglilitis" has come home to Dulaang Sibol once more, so theater buffs should make a special effort to catch its restaging on Feb. 9. Paul Dumol and Dulaang Sibol founder-director **Onofre Pagsanghan**, take a well-deserved bow.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Nobel specials

THE NOBEL Prize (for peace, literature, chemistry, physics, medicine and economics) has been awarded yearly from a fund bequeathed for that purpose by Swedish inventor and industrialist **Alfred Bernhard Nobel**. The award is highly prized and the best people in each field dream of getting it.

Saturdays this month, ABC-5 presents a series of Nobel Prize TV specials:

On Feb. 10 at 10 p.m., the Nobel Prize Peace Concert features **Elton John, Bon Jovi, West Life, Bryan Adams** and **Natalie Cole**. This is followed by the Nobel Literature Prize documentary, focusing on the writers and laureates who have produced "the most outstanding work of idealistic tendency."

On Feb. 17, students on three continents will be linked electronically to participate in a discussion with the Nobel laureates on topics of global concern, in the program titled "Nobel Minds."

On Feb. 24, an International Highlights film profiles the newly honored laureates and explains the significance of their achievements.

Famous recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize include: **Nelson Mandela** (1993), who accepted the prize as an accolade to all people who have worked for peace and stood against racism.

The 14th Dalai Lama, **Tenzin Oyatso** (1989), for his non-violent efforts to free his homeland, Tibet.

Mother Teresa (1979) for her work with the poorest of the poor all over the world.

And **Martin Luther King** (1964), who promoted non-violent means to achieve civil-rights reforms.

TV treats

THURSDAY, Feb. 8 at 8 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, "The Urban Elephant," a look at eight wild elephants whose lives have been changed by human intervention.

Saturday, Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, "Blow Out: Wild Well Fire Fighters." Go into the trenches with oil well fire fighters as they try to survive in flames that reach temperatures of over a thousand degrees. At 8 p.m., "Firewalkers of Kilavea," about a team of volcanologists who take on the risky job of keeping tabs on the world's most active volcano. At 9 p.m., "Salvage Divers," about men working on a grounded cargo ship that is causing a disastrous oil spill.

On Feb. 10 on Star Movies at 9 p.m.: "The Rage: Carrie 2" stars **Emily Bergi, Amy Irving** and **Jason London**. Twenty-three years ago, telekinetic **Carrie White** was humiliated at a prom. In a rage, she set the whole gym on fire. Now, her half-sister **Rachel** is about to go to the prom, and the fear is that she may possess the same dangerous power as her older sister.

Janet, Jenine 'Side by Side' at Captain's Bar

THIS coming season of love, Janet Basco and Jenine Desiderio will act as modern day counterparts of Venus and Aphrodite, the mythical Greek and Roman goddesses of love, in a special Valentine show, titled "Side by Side," on Feb. 14 at the Captain's Bar of Mandarin.

Through their choice of songs, the two artists will swap notes and melodies, interspersing them with certain scenarios culled from familiar love stories.

And unlike other "back to back" shows, this "side by side" concert will see the tandem sharing the spotlight in numerous production numbers that include "Could It Be I'm Falling In Love," "Being Alive," "I Believe in Love," "Where is the Love?," "Tell Him," "Natural Woman" and a host of others.

Produced by ALV Productions and Priority Asia Inc., "Side by Side" has Gerry Matias as master arranger and band leader. For tickets and reservations, call ALV Productions at 637-7014 to 18, Mandarin Oriental at 750-8888 or Priority Asia at 637-8047. Showtime is at 10 p.m.

BASCO

DESIDERIO

Post-Valentine productions at Ratsky's

AIRTIME Entertainment presents its initial salvo for this year, four post Valentine productions at Ratsky's in Malate.

Headed by Baby Pacheco, the woman whose managerial skills helped make Roselle Nava what she is today, Airtime Entertainment looks forward to busy days ahead for local concert producers.

Before the inception of Airtime Entertainment, Pacheco created Windmills, the management company behind Roselle Nava.

Pacheco is looking forward to big concerts by the third quarter of 2001.

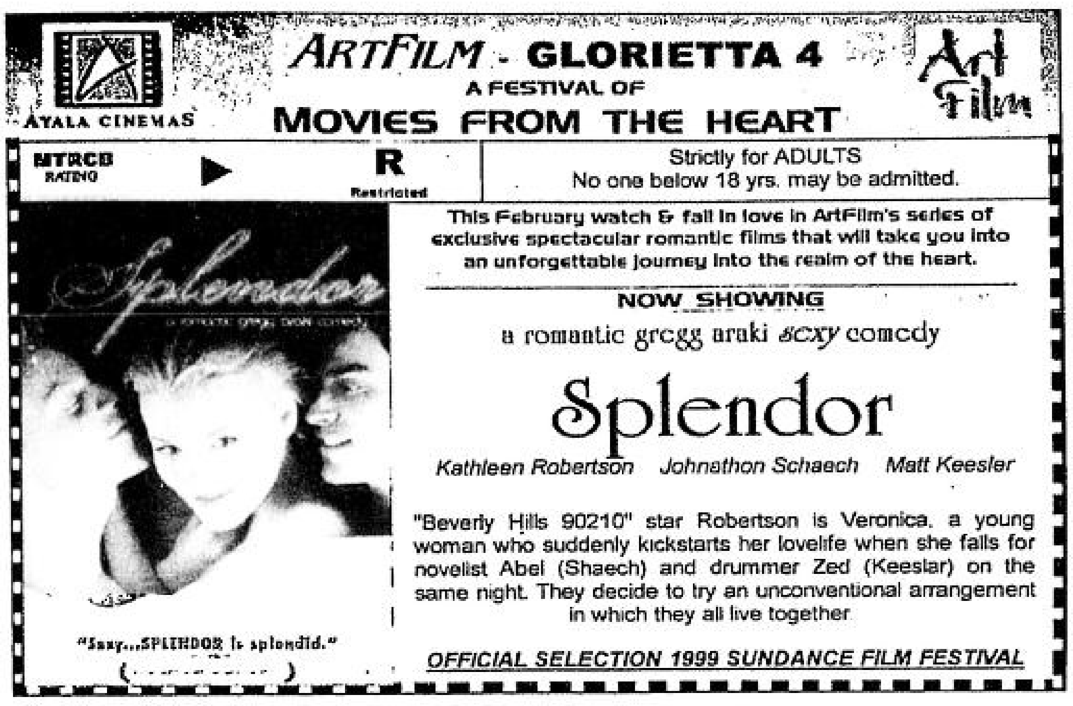
Airtime Entertainment's line-up at Ratsky's starts Feb. 15, a post valentine offering, called "Pop-Jazz @ Ratsky," featuring the vocal sextet, The Company.

Next in line is a dance concert headlined by Roselle Nava and Ralion Alonso, March 1.

A repeat of "Rhythm and Divette," featuring Dessa and Rannie Raymundo, happens March 15.

March 28, Ratsky's will go wild and wacky with "Your Honor . . . Si Arnel at si Marissa Po," topbilled by Arnel Ignacio and Marissa Sanchez.

Tickets to all Airtime Entertainment shows at Ratsky's are priced at P500 and are available at Don Henrico's Tomas Morato, Banawe and Sta. Lucia East, Center for Pop Music Philippines Cubao/Roces, Makati, Las Piñas, Parañaque and Lagro, Airtime Entertainment Productions at 546-7500/825-5939/0919-8393038 or log on to www.ticket2me.com, with tel. no. 753-3445 or pager 1277-61605.



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This February watch & fall in love in ArtFilm's series of exclusive spectacular romantic films that will take you into an unforgettable journey into the realm of the heart.

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a romantic gregg araki sexy comedy
Splendor
Kathleen Robertson Johnathon Schaech Matt Keesler

"Beverly Hills 90210" star Robertson is Veronica, a young woman who suddenly kickstarts her lovelife when she falls for novelist Abel (Shaech) and drummer Zed (Keeslar) on the same night. They decide to try an unconventional arrangement in which they all live together.

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PROOF OF LIFE 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00	THE CONTENDER 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00	WHAT WOMEN WANT 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

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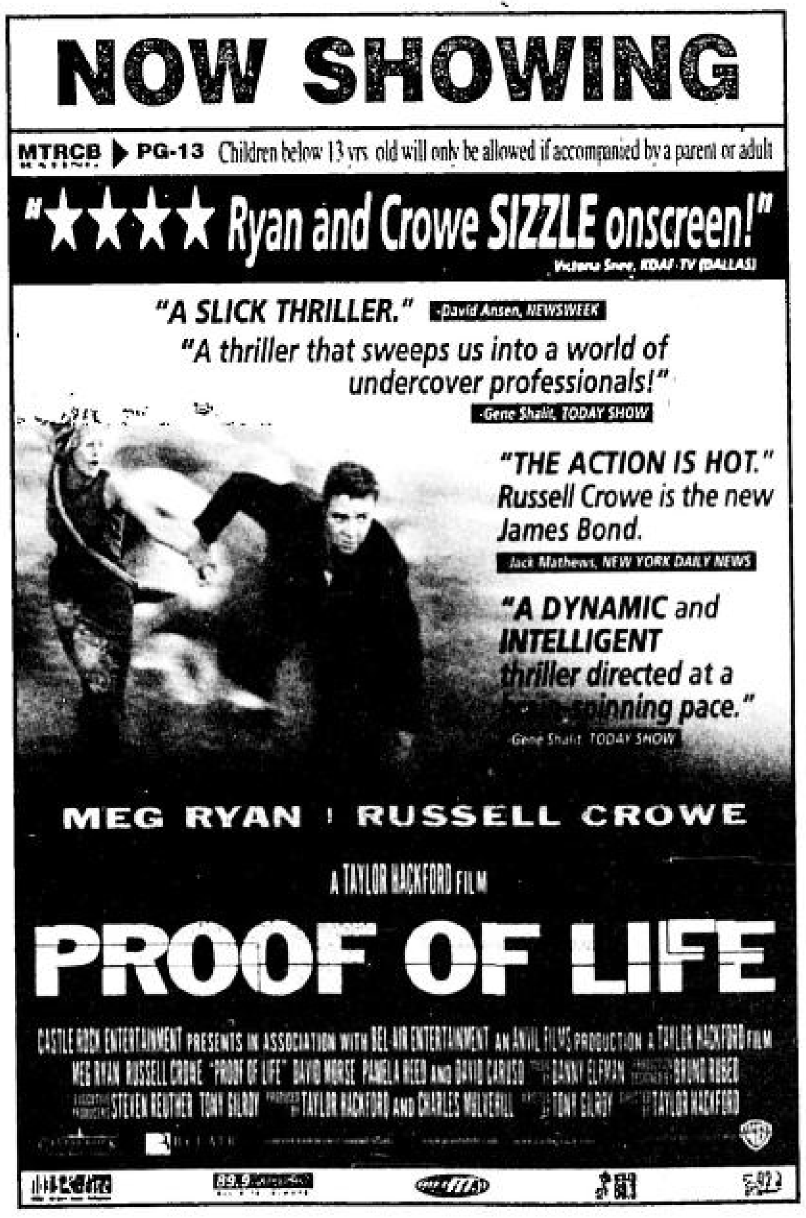

NOW SHOWING
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"★★★★ Ryan and Crowe SIZZLE onscreen!" Victoria Snee, KDAF-TV (DALLAS)
"A SLICK THRILLER." -David Ansen, NEWSWEEK
"A thriller that sweeps us into a world of undercover professionals!" -Gene Shalit, TODAY SHOW
"THE ACTION IS HOT." Russell Crowe is the new James Bond. Jack Mathews, NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
"A DYNAMIC and INTELLIGENT thriller directed at a head-spinning pace." Gene Shalit, TODAY SHOW
MEG RYAN | RUSSELL CROWE
A TAYLOR HACKFORD FILM
PROOF OF LIFE
CASTLE ROCK ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH BEL-AIR ENTERTAINMENT AN ANVIL FILMS PRODUCTION A TAYLOR HACKFORD FILM MEG RYAN RUSSELL CROWE "PROOF OF LIFE" DAVID MORSE PAMELA REED AND DAVID CARUSO DANNY ELFMAN BRUNO RUBEO STEVEN REUTHER TONY GILROY TAYLOR HACKFORD AND CHARLES MULVEHILL TONY GILROY TAYLOR HACKFORD

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at 11am Filipino Animation by Mowelfund
at 1pm Shower
at 3pm Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon by Eddie Romero
at 5pm Malaala Mo Kaya? A Pinoy Classic!
Today at 5pm
PIONEER ILONNGO FILMS!
with Raymond Red's "ANINO"
Aileen Ocampo's BATCHOYAN
Alan Cabalfin's DIHON
This year's Phil. entry to Kodak's Int'l Competition!
Teresa Tejero's HULOT
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at your Favorite Theaters
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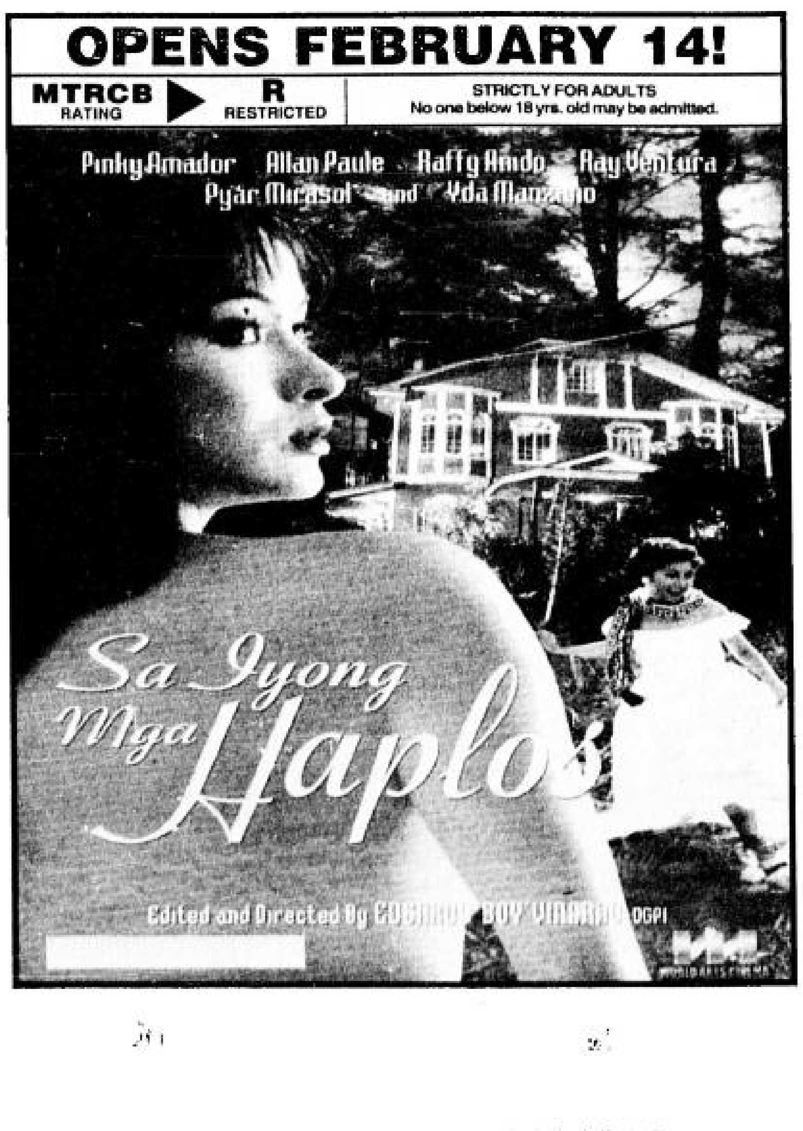
Piel Morena
FRAGILE!
HANDLE WITH CARE !!!
The Virgin Wife
Photographed by Romy Vitug
Written and Directed by Jose N. Carreon
Films International



OPENS FEBRUARY 14!
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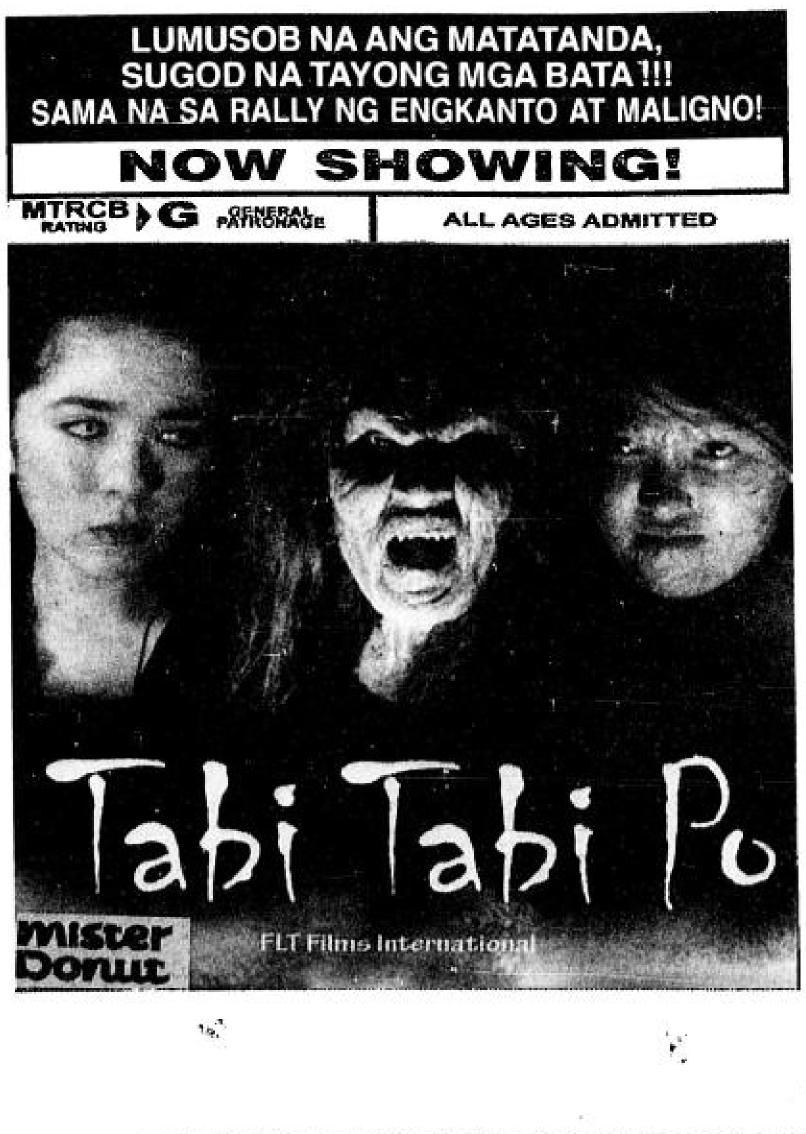
Pinky Amador Allan Paule Raffy Amdo Ray Ventura Pyar Micasol and Yda Manzano
Sa Iyong Mga Haplos
Edited and Directed By Eduardo "Boy" Vinarao OGPI



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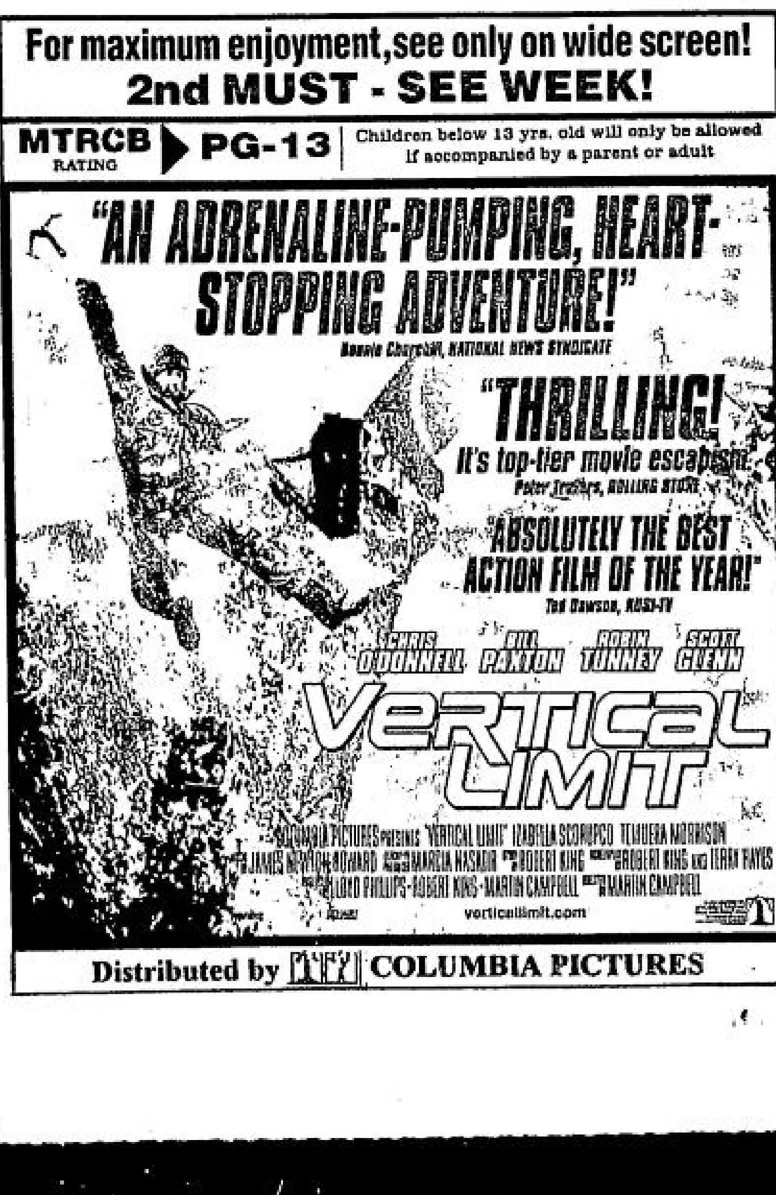

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

'Maalaala Mo Kaya' makes all the right moves in DI episode

By Paul Y. Daza

REVIEW

EVERY now and then, a gem of a drama appears on local television that reinvigorates one's faith in the medium, which is said to be the most powerful in the country. Such a gem was last Thursday's episode of "Maalaala Mo Kaya."

Titled "Sapatos," the episode was written by award-winning scriptwriter Mel del Rosario and directed by ABS-CBN in-house director Don Cuaresma. It was an engrossing, insightful glimpse into the world of a lonely widow (Tessie Tomas) and the dancing instructor (Marvin Agustin) who makes her feel alive again. The story also shows how the widow's children (Suzette Ranillo and Toby Alejar) end up treating their mother like an irrational child when they see her spending thousands of pesos on an attractive young man whom they believe is a hustler.

The show is superior to other locally produced TV programs, both artistically and technically. The achievement of the cast and crew is even more admirable when one considers that the 60-minute show was taped over the course of only two days, which is normally the time given to produce an episode of the decade-old drama anthology.

The opening credits immediately draw us into the world of ballroom dancing. Through a camera mounted on a crane, we are transported into a room where a dozen couples—elderly women and males in their twenties—are dancing cheek to cheek in a ballroom.

High expectations

The splendidly visualized opening raised my expectations for what was to follow, and I'm glad that the episode generally met those demands. In some instances, they were even surpassed. The performances of the actors, the quality of the writing, and the control of the director over the material ensured that I didn't change the channel.

The acting standout was of course Tessie Tomas, who allowed herself to be deglamorized just so she could be more physically convincing as the lonely Ida. Prosthetics were used to surround her eyes and cover her neck with wrinkles, while streaks of white further aged her hair.

Tomas inhabited the character of Ida so well that she had me crying with her (and for her) in three emotionally charged scenes. This from a performer known primarily for her sunny, morning-show disposition and her Imelda Marcos impersonations.

Comediennes who are given dramatic assignments often go the other extreme and overdo the "seriousness." This was how I felt about Ms Tomas' work in the mini-series "Sa Sandaling Kailangan Mo Ako," where she was too villainous to be believable.

Real chemistry

In "Sapatos," Tomas is a show-stopping revelation.

As the dancing instructor whose attention breathes new life into Ida, Marvin Agustin gives the character of Andy an earnestness and a sincerity which is both charming and mysterious at the same time. The way Agustin plays Andy, you're never quite sure if Andy really cares for Ida or is just after her money. He seems to be genuinely fond of her, but then he's paid to make her feel good, isn't he?

Agustin also earns points for knowing enough footwork to look like a credible DI. And because his portrayal of Andy seems so effortless and natural, there is real chemistry in his scenes with Ms Tomas.

The character whom I felt was overdone was that of Andy's wife, played by Nikka Valencia. In her scenes, she's a one-dimensional nag who's constantly yelling at her husband and demanding more money. She's supposed to be the foil for Ida, to make us see why Andy would be attracted to an older, quieter, more refined woman. But portraying this character as a totally despicable woman is just too easy—a cop-out, even. How much richer this episode would have been if Valencia had played—or had been allowed to play—this character with colors other than black.

Maximum impact

Technically, this is a quality production all the way. Don Cuaresma benefits from all the expensive toys which only ABS-CBN's directors get to play with, such as an agile crane, smooth dolly tracks, and enough lights, filters, and lenses to make even a squatter shanty look pretty.

Cuaresma is experienced enough to know that repetitive camera movement is bad, especially when it calls too much attention to itself. He thus uses these flourishes sparingly, economically, and with maximum impact.

Only in three instances does Cuaresma lose some control over his frame. The first occurs when a couple of energized moths fly in and out of a scene involving two females discussing Ida's appetite for fun. The second is when a driver in a mini-van distracts us with his enthusiastic towel-twirling while Tomas is emoting in a cemetery. The third is when Ida and Andy are saying their tearful goodbyes to each other, and you can hear fireworks exploding around them. For a second there, I thought someone had actually fired a gun at the characters.

Authoritative

It's obvious that the situations and lines which writer Mel del Rosario concocted for "Sapatos" were a result of her knowing enough about DIs and their clients to speak authoritatively about their milieu.

In the show, for example, Andy explains that he's from Pampanga and that he became a DI in Manila after Pampanga was consumed by lahar. I know a DI who has exactly the same back story. Like Andy, this DI friend of mine is a charming fellow who laughs off accusations that he sleeps with this clients, but doesn't deny the accusation either.

I also appreciated the fact that the script left many things to the imagination. This being a very familiar story, I was expecting the show to address the suspicion that DIs—like gigolos—only care about how much money they can fleece from their rich matrons.

Open-ended

When "Sapatos" left this point ambiguous, I was impressed that it didn't spell this out in black and white, because what was more important to the story is how Ida perceived Andy, and not how Andy really was.

I'm glad that the writer bucked the trend and opted to leave it open-ended. Because I was forced to think about this issue, I became a more active viewer without knowing it.

The voyeur in me was also hoping for at least one titillating scene showing Ida sharing her bed with Andy. I wanted to see middle-aged afterglow etched on her face a la Mrs. Robinson in "The Graduate."

Alas, no such scene was seen. Maybe our TV producers are maturing!

Indeed, everyone who worked on this episode of "Maalaala Mo Kaya" deserves the highest praise, from the scorer who resisted the urge to use canned Hollywood music, to the production designer who helped punctuate Ida's evolution through the clothes she wore and the way she wore her hair.

As long as we're at it, let's salute the utility boys and girls who served the food and drinks, which kept this team of actors, production staff, and crew inspired enough to bring out the best in each other.

RAYMUNDO. By her foreign boyfriend.

Ina pregnant

INA Raymundo is six weeks pregnant, and the doctor says she may have twins.

A source yesterday confirmed to the INQUIRER the sexy star's condition after Ina had a pregnancy test in a Mandaluyong hospital early this week.

Ina was accompanied to the hospital by her handsome Ukranian-Canadian boyfriend Bryan Poturnak, a business executive based in the Philippines.

The source said Ina also underwent an ultrasound test and her OB gyne predicted she would have twins.

Ina found out she was pregnant when she went to the doctor for another matter—a cyst in her ovary.

Ina starred in sexy movies like "Burlesk Queen Ngayon" and "Madame X."

Despite her pregnancy, she is expected to promote her new movies and a new dance album from Dyna Music. She is being managed by Dondon Monteverde.

She stars with Phillip Salvador in the movie, "Kaaway Hanggang Hukay," produced by Millennium Cinema.

She is also in Jeffrey Jeturian's controversial film, "Tuhog."

Leah Salterio

The men in Judy Ann's life

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

I HAD a blast on Saturday with **Judy Ann Santos** and our common friend *Tita* **Bebot**, who is like a fairy godmother to us.

Some people may find **Juday** *baduy* but if being *baduy* means that you're adored by the *masa*, then who minds being *baduy*? That surely beats celebrities who try too hard to be classy and have a *sosyal* image but hardly have any following. Worse than being a has-been in the biz is being a "never-was."

Allow me to let you in on my girls' talk with Juday.

Dolly Anne: What are the chances of Mikey Macapagal-Arroyo in winning your heart now that he's a presidential son? He has always been vocal about his admiration for you?

Judy Ann: It does not matter to me if he's the son of the President. *Kahit kaninong anak pa siya,* as long as his intentions are sincere.

DA: Even after your movie ("Kahit 'Isang Saglit") has been shown, you and **Piolo Pascual** are still sweet to each other.

JA: I can't deny he's very close to me now. Click *talaga kami*. We enjoyed our trip to Guam for the premiere of our movie. It made us even closer.

DA: What's one thing you did in Guam with Piolo that you've never done here?

JA: Swimming. That was quite memorable. We were both like two kids enjoying our freedom.

DA: How are things between you and your former screen partner, **Wowie de Guzman**?

JA: We have remained friends. *'Di naman puede itapon ang pinagsamahan namin*. I hope things work out for him. *Sana huwag namang isipin ng iba na komo wala na kaming* movie together, end *na ng* career *ni* Wowie. In any loveteam, joint effort *naman talaga. At saka may* talent *naman si* Wowie *kahit kanino pa siya ipareha.*

DA: What about your movie with **Jinggoy Estrada**? What will happen to it now, after People Power II?

JA: Everything passes *naman. Pelikula lang 'yon, sana naman huwag nilang idamay. Walang koneksyon naman 'yung* Edsa *sa* movie *namin ni* Jinggoy. Unfair *naman kung pati trabaho namin isama sa gulo ng pulitika.*

DA: What are your sentiments about what happened to Jinggoy and the whole Estrada family?

JA: *Mahirap nang magsalita. Baka lagyan ng ibang kulay. Siyempre*, somehow *nakakaawa rin sila.*

DA.: I noticed you've slimmed down. How did you do it?

JA: *Dusa! Pero* no choice *e, kailangan talagang magpapayat.* I take soup and crackers only. Effective *din sa akin ang* green tea. When I'm not too busy, I work out, but with my schedule, *minsan 'di ko na maisingit mag*-exercise.

DA: How will you spend Valentine's Day?

JA: *Uso pa ba yon?*

DA: Heard you're gonna put up a business?

JA: I'm still weighing it. I plan to get a franchise of one of my favorite hang-outs. Maybe I'll even put up my own room upstairs so that if I have to be up early the next day, I can just sleep over. If ever, it will be my first business venture.

Valentine's Day tip

WONDER what most actresses would give themselves this Valentine's?

If no one gives you roses, plant your own garden. Have a love affair with yourself even long after V-Day is over. Call up 723-4619 and 20 and see what I mean.

Just asking

WHAT could be the real reason behind **Angelu de Leon**'s flying to the US with her mom and daughter? Some wags insinuate that she could be pregnant again. Angelu's camp claims she flew to the US to try her luck in Hollywood. Or is that just a lame excuse? In fairness to Angelu, when she got pregnant out of wedlock before, she readily admitted it and even advised her fans not to follow her example. If she is indeed pregnant again, I guess she'll be honest about it again.

When **Pops Fernandez** made a surprise appearance in **Martin Nievera**'s birthday concert Saturday, people were thrilled. Could it mean a much-awaited Martin and Pops concert in the offing?

How true are whispers that **Bernadette Alysson** is the current apple of **Onemig Bondoc**'s eyes? Has he taken a bite out of the apple or will he squash the rumors?

No doubt the presence of **Marvin Agustin**, **Rico Yan** and **Dominic Ochoa** in "Magandang Tanghali Bayan" as regular cohosts will further boost the ratings of the noontime show. Some quarters are wondering, though, if this move means that MTB is suddenly threatened by the long-running "Eat Bulaga." Considering how many hosts MTB has, how will they all be given equal exposure? Will the **Randy-John-Willie** triumvirate be eclipsed by the new MTB trio?

For Feedback e-mail wateringhole2000@yahoo.com

AUSTIN

Official entertainment channel of 'Reminiscing'

E! Philippines is the official entertainment channel of "Reminiscing 3," featuring mega-diva and Grammy Award winner Patti Austin and pop sensation El Debarge, to be held Feb. 9 and 10 at Araneta Coliseum.

E! Philippines has started shooting the Philippine version of E! International's "Behind the Scenes" for the Valentine concert.

Austin and El Debarge will perform some of their hits during the event.

Austin's hits include "In My Life," "Through the Test of Time" and "It Might Be You."

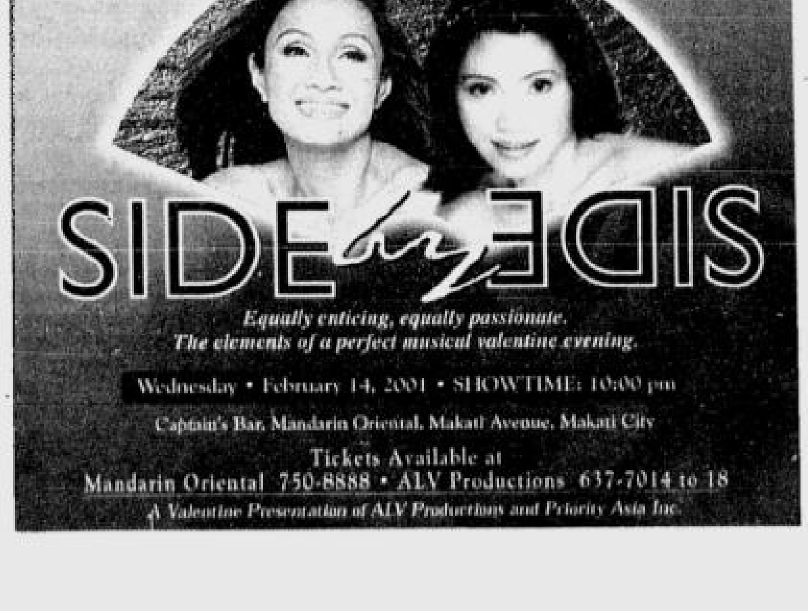
The ageless diva has worked with some of the world's greatest artists like Paul Simon, Billy Joel, George Benson and James Ingram.

Her duet with Ingram, "How Do You Keep the Music Playing?," from the film "Best Friends," was nominated for an Oscar.

El Debarge is best known for their hits "Rhythm of the Night" and "Who's Holding Donna Now?"

E! Entertainment Television Networks is the world's largest producer and distributor of entertainment news and lifestyle-related programming.

The company recently formed an alliance with RMN, the



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Merk jazzes up Valentine season

MERK

RICHARD Merk, the country's reigning prince of jazz, perks up the love month with a series of concerts starting Feb. 12 at Ratsky's in Malate.

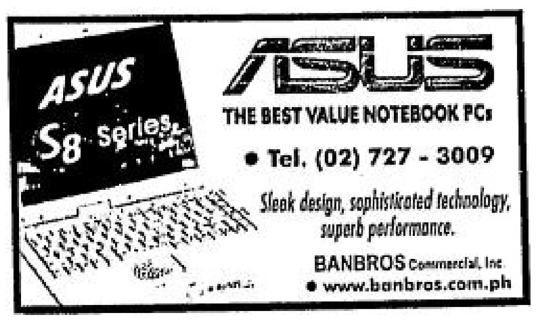
Performing with Merk is his band composed of Rey Cristobal on keyboard, Roger Herrera on bass, Roy Mercado on drums, Rudy Lozano on guitar, and Uly Avante on percussion.

On Feb. 15, all roads lead to the Glorietta Center as Merk rocks Tower Records in a live concert in time for the launching of his CD, "Jazz in Time," released by Star Records.

Merk's new CD reintroduces pop, swing and soul music given dynamic style in the realm of jazz. Included in the CD are the songs "Every Breath You Take," Stevie Wonder's "My Cherie Amour," Terry deSario's "Falling," "Two for the Road," the Beatles' "Get Back" and Basil Valdez's "You" written by the late Gerry Paraiso, among others.

On Feb. 17, Merk hies off to Baguio City to perform at the Shadow's Bar of Concorde Hotel with a live band led by Cristobal.

On Feb. 23, he goes back to Manila with a return engagement with Vernie Varga at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.



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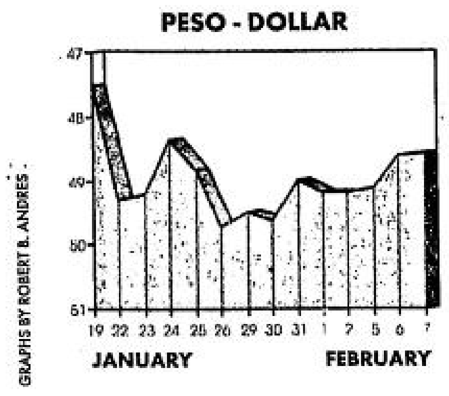


Peso-Dollar Rate

P48.58 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 7, 2001

¥115.24 = $1

The US dollar was trading at 115.24 as of 5 p.m., Feb. 7, 2001

GOLD:$263.50/264.00

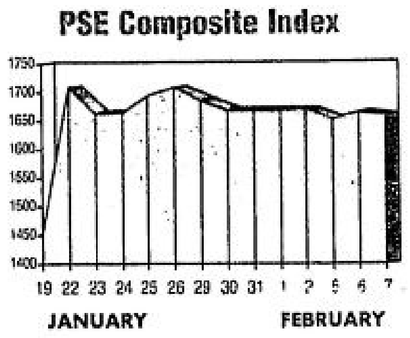
per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 7, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end lower

SHARES closed marginally lower yesterday after bobbing in a tight range with players concentrating on specific stocks in the absence of market-moving news.

Traders said investors continued to be cautious on expectations of generally weak 2000 corporate earnings.



(See stock market report on Page B2)

The 33-share composite index slipped 4.98 points, or 0.3 percent, to close at 1,659.25. The index moved within a narrow range of about 16 points.

The index has gained 11.02 percent so far this year.

Turnover trimmed to P436.4 million from the previous day's P651.59 million. Losers were in a two-to-one majority.

"There is no interest in the broad market although the lowering of interest rates should have infused liquidity into the market. There is cautiousness . . . because there is still no major changes in these companies from last year," said Enrique Sta. Ana, associate director for sales of Vickers Ballas Securities. *Reuters*

Concentration of wealth worries ADB, World Bank

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE ASIAN Development Bank yesterday said it would like to see the privatization process in the Philippines as an instrument to disperse ownership of enterprises being sold by the government.

ADB country director for the Philippines Gunther Hecker said it was a valid concern that assets in the country were ending up in very few hands even when the government privatizes enterprises.

"Maybe, it's not really a monopoly, but the assets are concentrated too much. Part of our development agenda is to bring the others up. That's one of the challenges (of this government), to bring other groups up," Hecker said.

This developed as the World Bank earlier issued a report, which warned of risks arising from the concentration of ownership around family-based conglomerates in the Philippines.

The study, titled "Philippines: Growth with Equity," said the high concentration of wealth among family conglomerates tended to result in the threefold whammy of virtual monopoly, selective bank lending and weak corporate governance.

Among the biggest family-based conglomerates in the country are the Ayala, Lopez, Gokongwei, Sy, Lopez, Concepcion, Tan and Aboitiz groups.

In the case of the privatization of the water concessionaire of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, for instance, contracts were awarded to the Ayala and Lopez groups, which already controlled other utilities.

The Lopez clan manages Manila Electric Co., the sole power distributor in Metro Manila and its suburbs. It also operates a media and telecommunications network.

Previous administrations had tried to prod family-owned corporations to open up to the public through various tax and fiscal incentives. While many heeded such call, the public was allowed to own only a small fraction of the companies, with the traditional families keeping control over them.

During the 3rd day of the Asia-Pacific forum on poverty yesterday, the ADB stressed that the private sector could help reduce poverty in the following ways:

- Generating jobs by promoting growth and markets;
- Creating fiscal space by relieving pressure on public budgets when they assume the responsibility of providing water, roads and telecommunications;
- Creating public-private partnerships that make services increasingly available to the poor, and
- Regulating private utilities effectively to ensure the poor get better access to services at lower prices.

25% CUTBACK

Toshiba to shift US computer output to RP

TOKYO—Japanese electronics and personal computer manufacturer Toshiba Corp. said yesterday it would shift some of its output of portable computers at a US unit to the Philippines, cutting 500 US jobs.

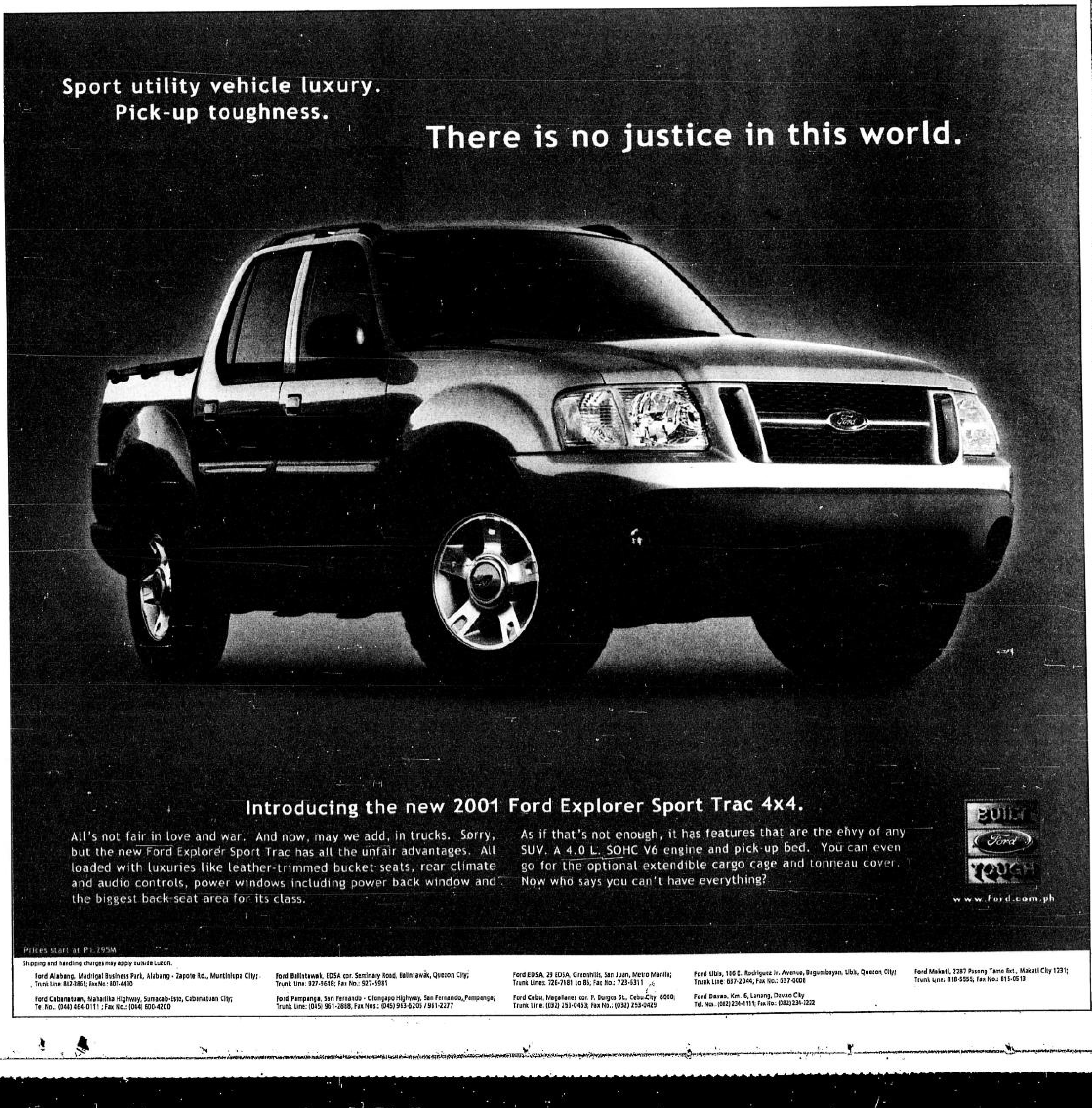
A large portion of Toshiba America Information Systems's engineering and manufacturing of portable personal computers will be moved to Toshiba Information Equipment (Philippines), resulting in a reduction of about 25 percent of the US company's workforce.

The US subsidiary said it would continue build-to-order and configure-to-order operations for notebook PCs at its Irvine, California facility.

A Toshiba spokesperson said one-time costs connected with the US restructuring of about $17 million were already incorporated into the company's latest earnings forecast released on Tuesday for the business year to March 31.

The company lowered its consolidated net profit forecast for 2000/01 to ¥96 billion ($836.4 million) from a prior projection of ¥137 billion, reflecting recent weakness in chip prices and the key US PC market.

The gathering gloom over the company's profit outlook sent its share price lower in recent weeks. Toshiba slipped to ¥698 yesterday morning, its lowest in nearly 15 months. *Reuters*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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Wednesday, February 7, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	68.5	68.5	68.5	68.5	535,300
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	54	54	53.5	53.5	19,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	234	236	230	233	47,150
Philippine National Bank	33.5	33.5	32.5	32.5	79,800
Security Bank Corp.	26.5	26.5	26	26.5	33,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	29	29	28	28	3,400
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.62	1.64	1.62	1.64	20,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1345	1345	1340	1345	4,650
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1155	1190	1155	1160	3,380
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	47.5	47.5	47.5	47.5	10,400
Diversified Fin. Network	7.9	8.4	7.9	8.4	12,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.79	0 .79	0.74	0.75	5,460,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	705	705	705	705	360
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	900,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.46	0.56	0.46	0.52	4,230,000
Piltel	0.84	0.95	0.84	0.91	8,920,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.38	0.5	0.38	0.5	50,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	895	895	890	890	3,040
Ivantage Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	171,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.0775	0.0775	0.0725	0.075	147,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	52	52	51	51	17,100
Manila Electric Co. B	59	59	58.5	59	397,700
Petron Corp.	1.86	1.86	1.82	1.84	3,327,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1	1	1	1	1,120,000
Int'l Container Term'l SV	1.38	1.38	1.32	1.34	1,683,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.52	0.57	0.52	0.57	50,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,000,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	23,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	10,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	80,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	20,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	170,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.82	0.88	0.82	0.88	1,620,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.25	11.25	11	11	128,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	38	39.5	38	39	739,500
Pancake House Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	2,000
RFM Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.06	480,000
San Miguel Corp. A	51.5	52	51	52	117,600
San Miguel Corp. B	63.5	64	62.5	64	109,100
Universal Robina Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	70,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0 .51	0.5	0.51	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	8.1	8.2	8.1	8.2	151,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	110,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	106,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.75	12.2	5 11.7	5 12	1,300
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	40,000
APC Group Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	60,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	50,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	20,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.245	0.23	0.235	1,090,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.05	3.1	1,904,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	400,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	1,300,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	220,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	630,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.24	1.2	1.24	584,000
First Phil. Hldgs. Corp.	22	75 22	.75 21.75	22	581,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	140,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.38	680,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	100,000
Ionics Inc.	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	1,400
Ipeople Inc.	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	60,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.65	282,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	16,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.94	0 .94	0.93	0.93	1,790,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	1,030,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	3	3.1	3	3.1	90,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	20,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.67	0.68	0.66	0.66	3,000,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.74	0.74	740,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	540,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.38	0.39	0.37	0.38	970,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	10,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	60,000
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	5,000
Macondray Plastics Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	8,000
Music Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.2	3.2	87,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.145	500,000
Pryce Corp.	0.62	0.65	0.62	0.65	110,000
Philtread Tire & Rubber A	3	3	3	3	1,000
Reynolds Philippine Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	70,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	20,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12	12	11.75	11.75	136,300
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.62	0.65	3,580,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.63	0.66	0.62	0.63	25,320,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.6	0.62	0.6	0.62	750,000
Manila Jockey Club	15	15	15	15	1,148,100
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	670,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	47	48.5	47	47.5	995,200
Ayala Corp. Pref.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	200,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.55	3.55	3.1	3.3	41,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (PDR)	760	760	760	760	50
Jollibee Warrants	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	22,600
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0032	0.003	2 .0032	.0032	92,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	11	11	11	11	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.75	10.5	10.75	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	11	11	11	11	1,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	1,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	25,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	15,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.5	9,107,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.35	0.36	0.33	0.34	7,690,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.49	450,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.43	0.44	0.42	0.43	9,800,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.65	2.75	2,430,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.049	0.049	0.045	0.045	400,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.41	300,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	35,000
SM Development Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.9	7	6.7	6.7	10,931,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.125	0.125	0.11	0.11	2,810,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	6,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	38,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	20,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	68,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	390,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	180,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.031	0.031	0.029	0.03	9,200,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	20,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	2,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	20,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000
Pacifica	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	7,100,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.095	0.095	0.09	0.09	600,000
Vulcan Ind'l.	0.25	0.25	0.23	0.25	650,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Comm'l & Ind'l	745,880	62,412,890.00
PRO	321,758,550	229,702,325.00
Banks & Fin Svc	44,003,000	147,200,950.00
Mining	133,570,000	866,900.00
OIL	39,590,000	749,500.00
GRAND TOTALS:	539,667,430	440,932,565.00

AVERAGES			
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,283.63	DOWN	9.99
PRO	619.80	DOWN	0.48
Banks & Fin Svc	606.78	DOWN	4.63
Mining	1,338.43	DOWN	6.14
OIL	1.96	DOWN	0.08
All Shares Index	822.17	DOWN	15.20
Composite	1,659.25	DOWN	4.98

NO. OF ADVANCES: 22; NO. OF DECLINES: 51; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 56; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 129; NO. OF TRADES: 2,733

CURRENCIES

Feb. 7, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.073998	1.000000	48.8570
Japan	Yen	0.009356	0.008711	0.4256
United Kingdom	Pound	1.567393	1.459400	71.3019
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.137697	0.128210	6.2640
Switzerland	Franc	0.649099	0.604376	29.5280
Canada	Dollar	0.711069	0.662076	32.3470
Singapore	Dollar	0.616249	0.573789	28.0336
Australia	Dollar	0.590174	0.549511	26.8475
Bahrain	Dinar	2.848954	2.652661	129.6011
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.286438	0.266702	13.0303
Brunei	Dollar	0.615437	0.573033	27.9967
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000104	0.0051
Thailand	Baht	0.025292	0.023549	1.1505
UAE	Dirham	0.292443	0.272294	13.3035
Korea	Won	0.000855	0.000796	0.0389
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.931100	45.4908
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.476064	23.2591
France	Franc	0.152450	0.141945	6.9350
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.422515	20.6428
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.067666	3.3060
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.023081	1.1277
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000481	0.0235
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.156600	7.6510
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004644	0.2269
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005596	0.2734
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.023081	1.1277
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.182253	57.7613

San Miguel, Coke eye new venture

By Doris C. Dumlao

AFTER finalizing a $1.2-billion deal involving the takeover of the local bottling operations of Coca-Cola, food and beverage conglomerate San Miguel Corp. and Coca-Cola Corp. of Atlanta are firming up a strategic partnership in the non-carbonated beverage business.

Announcements on the recently concluded $1.2-billion deal, which allowed SMC to regain a controlling stake in Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc., were silent on what role Coke Atlanta would take, specially on whether or not CCBPI would be folded into SMC's beverage subsidiary La Tondeña Distillers Inc.

SMC sources confirmed that Coke Atlanta indeed wanted to acquire a minority stake in LTDI. By folding CCBPI into LTDI, Coke Atlanta's 35-percent stake in the local bottler could be converted into a minority stake in LTDI.

LTDI officials also separately confirmed Coke Atlanta's interest to acquire a stake in the beverage firm during a recent investors' briefing.

But analysts said another option would be for SMC to spin off its non-carbonated beverage business and allow Coke Atlanta to come in as a strategic partner.

They said all juice and bottled water businesses, for instance, could be spun off into a separate subsidiary.

SMC's earlier acquisition of powdered juice and water gel manufacturer Sugarland Multi-Foods Corp. has boosted its juice business via subsidiary LTDI. LTDI's integration with Sugarland's branded products, which include Eight O'clock, Ponkana and Jellyace, has enabled it to dominate the juice market. These additional brands improved the revenue contribution of the juice line apart from LTDI's already existing Funchum ready-to-drink products.

As of November last year, LTDI had a market share of 52 percent in the juice industry.

DISCLOSURES

THE SPECIAL stockholders' meeting of **Manila Broadcasting Co.** scheduled on Feb. 9 was reset to Feb. 23.

* * *

DUE to **National Telecommunications Commission**'s approval on Feb. 2 of the share-swap transaction between **Ayala Corp., Singapore Telecom International Pte. Ltd., DeTeAsia Holdings** and **Asiacom Philippines Inc.; Globe Telecom** will issue a package of new common and preferred shares to **Islacom**'s shareholders in exchange for 100 percent of the issued and outstanding stock of Islacom.

* * *

FIL-ESTATE Corp. said that it was not aware of any information relating to the unusual movement in the trading of its shares on Feb. 6.

* * *

NEGOTIATIONS between **Mediaquest Holdings Inc.**, a subsidiary of the **PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund**, and the owners of a controlling interest in **GMA Network Inc.** have progressed significantly and the parties expect to sign a memorandum of understanding soon.

* * *

REYNOLDS Philippines Corp. said that it was not aware of any new material information that may have affected the value and trading of its shares.

* * *

BOULEVARD Holdings Inc. said that it was not aware of any information which could have caused the unusual movement in the trading of its share price on Feb. 6. *Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research*

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CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Tariff rate oversight starts to hammer auto industry

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

TOYOTA, Mitsubishi, Isuzu and other automotive companies in the country that have forthcoming shipments of completely knock down units (CKDs) are starting to reel from Executive Order 334 of the previous administration that issued a sudden increase of tariff rate duties from 3 to 10 percent.

Initial shipments alone already cost additional expenses of close to P10 million for the large automakers. Toyota and Isuzu have reportedly filed "paid under protest" with the Bureau of Customs after paying the 10-percent tariff rates.

Assemblers said the government already admitted it had inadvertently did an oversight in the issuance of the EO.

Under protest

From the start, EO 334 had been under protest. Market players dubbed it as an "inadvertent increase in tariff rates for vehicles of Commercial Vehicle Development Program participants."

The sudden increase in January sent shock waves through the assemblers. The government had previously agreed to extend the 3-percent tariff rate to 2001.

Corrective measure

Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. secretary general Mario de Grano said that the auto industry is waiting for a retroactive EO to amend the present EO. The corrective measure that would amend portions of EO 334, however, could only be issued after Congress holds a recess next week.

Toyota Motor Philippines' media relations officer Ariel de Jesus said that they are expecting the amended EO to be issued Feb. 12.

De Jesus added that if not remedied immediately, EO 334 may be translated into a 5- to 8-percent increase of vehicle retail prices, particularly in the AUV (Asian Utility Vehicle) segment.

'Fastbreak order'

EO 334 was issued Jan. 15, a day before Congress resumed sessions. Auto industry observers noted that EO 334 was "a fastbreak (order) issued without the benefit of the review."

"*Nagkaleche-leche* (messed up)," an industry observer, who refused to be identified, said of the hasty issuance of the EO.

"There are no tariff guidelines for year 2001. The tariff for MFN (Most Favored Nations) ended 2000. We don't know whose omission is that. In a desire to correct that situation, the EO was rushed, which is a big mistake. Supposedly the interagency committee of the Cabinet level of TRM (Tariff Related Matters) reviews it," said Truck Manufacturers Association president Frank Nacua.

Oversight

The National Economic Development Authority spearheads automotive tariff reviews in conjunction with the tariff commission and the BOI. Industry observers theorized that the tariff commission may not have been given a chance to review the EO.

"Why should we be penalized for the mistake committed by the government? The government said it inadvertently did an oversight, but it also said that in case there would be an amended EO, it will be hard to make it retroactive," said Isuzu Philippines Corp.'s Eric Talag.

Pending appeal

Meanwhile, the Philippine Automotive Federation has a pending appeal before Malacañang, the tariff commission, and Secretary Mar Roxas of the Department of Trade and Industry in connection with the appeal for an amended EO.

Manufacturers of motor vehicles transporting 10 or more persons, and makers of vehicles for transport of goods have recently lamented EO 334. Aside from the 10 percent rate, tariff headings in question are those governing buses (CKDs with restrictions of 6 to 18 tons) versus CKDs of motor vehicle development program participants. The industry noted that the rate for the former was maintained to 3 percent up to 2004 while the latter was declared an abrupt 10 percent increase.

Chrysler bullish on RP auto industry

CHRYSLER recently introduced in the country four stand-out models calculated to satisfy the most discriminating motorists, be it in terms of power, space, safety or technology. The superior attributes of the Jeep Grand Cherokee 4x4, Durango SLT 4x4, Grand Voyager SE Mini Van and the PT Cruiser are the best reasons to get to your destination in comfort and style.

Says Eric D. Borja, chief operations officer of Norkis Automotive Resources Corp.: "Chrysler is quite bullish on the Philippine market. The discriminate Filipino motorist has acquired a taste for value and reliability, and we're quite confident our vehicles are just the perfect fit to the local trend toward uncompromising quality and value pricing."

With the four head-turning models out in the market and sending the unmistakable signal that at Chrysler's presence in the Philippines, in partnership with Norkis Automotive Resources, is for the long-term, the SUV and minivan segment of the domestic auto market is off to a sizzling start this year. "Chrysler cars are here to stay," asserts Borja. "We have dealerships not just in Luzon, but also in the Visayas and Mindanao."

Chrysler is very excited about its opportunities in the Visayas and Mindanao region. Just recently, Chrysler opened its doors to residents of Iloilo. "We see a big market in the provinces," adds Borja, "here our customers need a vehicle that can transport them through long distances and kilometers of unpaved roads in absolute style, safety and comfort." With this in mind, Chrysler plans to open dealerships in every major city. The opportunity is open for interested parties to be part of the widening circle of Chrysler's family in this country.

Chrysler assures each member of the Chrysler family of unsurpassed support by stocking original parts and maintaining an expert service crew. The technical staff has been extensively trained by DaimlerChrysler to ensure that Chrysler's vehicles get the best hands for any job.

Suzuki Grand Vitara: Cute ute bruiser

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

SOMEWHAT unfairly, the Suzuki Grand Vitara is being pitted against the Honda CR-V and the Toyota RAV4 in the cute ute market. Why "unfairly"? Because, more than the CR-V or the RAV4, the Grand Vitara is a real bruiser.

Aside from the fact that the top-of-the-line 2.5-liter Grand Vitara has a bigger, more muscular engine than the two leading cute utes, it has a two-speed transfer case and the low-range gearing of a genuine "shift on the fly" 4x4 or four-wheel drive (4WD). The CR-V, on the other hand, has a part-time all-wheel-drive (AWD) and the RAV4 has a full-time AWD system adapted from passenger cars. In other words, the truck-like, steel ladder box-frame, 4x4 rear-wheel-drive Grand Vitara is better equipped for serious off-roading than the unibody, car-based, AWD front-wheel-drive CR-V and RAV4.

Even if the Grand Vitara were to be compared with the Kia Sportage, the only other compact SUV equipped with a true 4WD system, it would still emerge the winner because of its superior noise, harshness and vibration control technology such as energy-absorbing body mounts and liquid-filled motor mounts contributing to a smoother, quieter and more comfortable ride—although still rather stiff due to its full body-on-frame construction with seven cross members, strut tower brace and rigid axle rear suspension.

On the asphalt, the Grand Vitara handles well for an SUV, exhibiting stability and not too much body lean when cornering. In fact, in the emergency handling test of 18 SUVs (full size, medium and small) conducted by Consumer Reports for its Sport Utility Special Issue 2001, the Grand Vitara was ranked No. 5 with a "Good" rating, while the Sportage was ranked second to last or No. 17 with a "Poor" rating. The Grand Vitara has MacPherson struts and coil springs in front, anti-roll bar and a 5-link, rigid axle rear suspension.

The Grand Vitara's all-aluminum 2.5-liter twin cam, 24-valve powerplant is the first V6 engine in the cute ute class, figuratively besting both the CR-V and the RAV4 with its 155 max horsepower and 151 pound-feet of torque. With the 2.5-liter automatic transmission model, the driver can fast-forward the vehicle by switching to "P" (for Power) from "N" (Normal) mode. But acceleration is bland because of the automatic transmission and perhaps because the Grand Vitara is six inches longer, a few inches taller and 400 pounds heavier than its predecessor, the Vitara (known as the Sidekick in the United States). Once off the asphalt, you can conveniently shift to 4WD mode even at speeds up to 100 kilometers per hour while traveling in a straight line.

On the exterior of the V-6 Grand Vitara, fender flares, side skirts, alloy wheels and two-tone paint are standard. Its plus points are: dual airbags; strong brakes thanks to 3-channel ABS with electronic brake distribution (EBD); ease of entry and exit; a rear door that is manageable when you're loading and unloading cargo; a nicely detailed cabin with up-to-date controls and displays; an excellent cooling system and resistance to rust. All-power (door locks, windows, side mirrors) amenities, keyless entry, overhead map lamps, dual cupholders, slide-out storage under the front seats and tilt steering wheel are also standard. The Grand Vitara has two things its rivals don't have: a micron air filter that helps keep cabin air fresh and a two-stage, high-performance timing chain that saves the owner the maintenance cost of a timing belt. The audio system is a Clarion AM/FM radio with cassette and in-dash CD player, but unfortunately it has only four speakers.

Aside from the absence of tweeters, what I didn't like about the Grand Vitara was its pip-squeak horn and its invisible digital clock. You have to turn off the radio/CD to be able to see the clock. Also, fuel consumption was a bit high.

When you sum things up, however, without taking into account its reliability record (for that, you'll need a one-year road test), the Grand Vitara's pluses apparently outweigh its minuses. It's the only cute ute currently available here that has the refined street manners of a car as well as the off-roading ability of a tough, authentic 4x4. For that, and being a CBU (completely built unit), the Grand Vitara doesn't come cheap: prices start at P1,135,000 for the 2.0-liter manual transmission model while the top-of-the-line 2.5-liter A/T, which I test-drove for six days, costs P1,330,000.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Just when you think you've won the rat race, along come faster rats.

* * *

E-mail comments to aida_sevilla @pacific.net.ph.

Toyota unveils new Corolla 1.6 Altis

TOYOTA Motor Philippines announces the launch of the new 1600 Corolla Altis in the market. The new 1600 Altis now boasts of the same luxury features that made its predecessor, the 1800 Altis, a huge market success since its introduction in 1999. This time, however, new features also have been added to the new Corolla 1600 Altis, transforming it to probably the most complete car in its class today.

Cabin bliss has been realized with the new interior of the 1600 Altis. The new Altis has been furbished with richly upholstered leather seats and door trims that pamper the occupants and radiate a sense of utmost driving comfort. Further adding to its refined look and feel is the wood grain panel that adds a look of understated flair. Rounding out this luxurious collection is its elegant leather steering wheel that lets the driver maneuver in elegance, which is now a standard in the 1600 Altis. Posh wood panel dash cast flair to the 1600 Altis. And while the driver and his passenger are enjoying the distinctive 1600 Altis cruising experience, high-fidelity music is provided with its 6-speaker Alpine car audio system complete with a remote control plus a standard 6-disc CD changer to boot.

High performance

Under the hood of the new Corolla 1600 Altis is the high-performance 4A-FE 1.6-liter Double Overhead Cam (DOHC) electronically fuel-injected (EFI) engine. This peppery engine produces a very dynamic performance with the virtual power plant that produces a maximum output of 110hp/6,000 rpm and a high torque rating of 145Nm/4,800 rpm. In addition, its EFI system ensures better fuel economy that is becoming a very important factor nowadays, especially with the skyrocketing prices of petroleum products.

The new Corolla Altis still maintains its sporty presence with its grille design, extended front and rear bumpers, body side skirts and its Euro-inspired rear lamps. It is still equipped with the aggressive looking 14" alloy wheels which, together with its 185/65HR 14-inch tires, ensures sure-footed driving performance. For added safety and convenience, the 1600 Altis has been equipped with the latest reverse parking sensor. The sensor warns the driver by emitting an alarm when obstructions are detected while the vehicle is in a reverse mode. This device is very useful especially on tight parking conditions and may even prevent damage to the rear bumper.

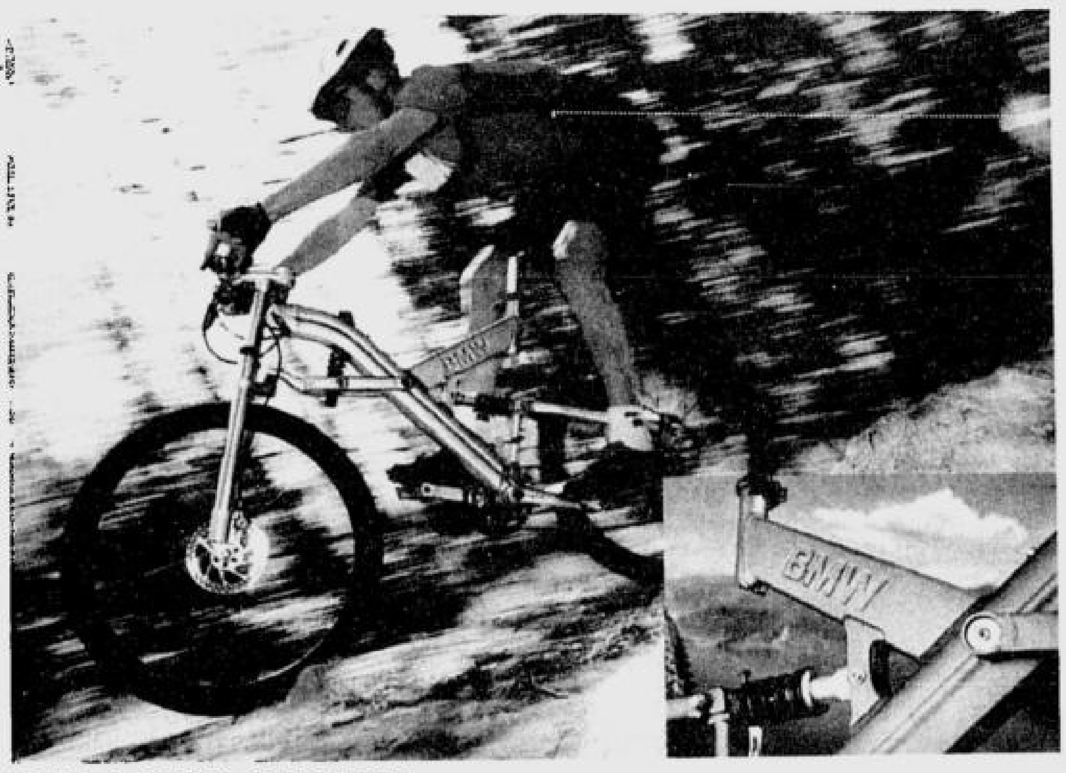
Safety features

Safety continues to be one of the main focuses of the new Altis with all of Toyota's standard safety features installed in the vehicle. The Corolla Altis can easily be considered as one of the safest cars in its class with its Global Outstanding Assessment certified body. This means that the Altis has successfully surpassed a series of tests that exceeds those of the US, European and Japan standards in automotive safety.

The GOA seal carries with it a complete lineup of world-class safety features such as the antilock braking system and the Supplemental Restraint System airbags.

With the focus on emission reduction, the new Corolla 1600 Altis has been installed with Euro Step 2 Catalytic Converter that converts harmful fuel components such as carbon and nitrogen compound by-products to substances as safe as water and as harmless as carbon dioxide and nitrogen. With the implementation of the Clean Air Act already underway, Toyota is taking the lead anew with the new Corolla 1600 Altis in keeping the air clean by taking the first step toward the reduction of harmful vehicular emissions.

The new Corolla 1600 Altis only comes in automatic and is available with an array of exciting colors that will match its driver. Colors like coral red, express black, power blue, royal beige and stellar blue will surely make the 1600 Altis an instant eye catcher. The new Corolla 1600 Altis is available at a special premium price of P730,000.



BMW Q SERIES NOW HERE

The Q Series line of bikes is now available at BMW sales and service centers in the Philippines. Equipped with BMW's patented Telelever suspension (inset) that was specifically adapted from the Munich carmaker's world-beating motorcycles, the Q Series bikes deliver superior riding comfort on-road and off. Both the Q6.S mountain bike and the Q5.T touring model feature a cast folding hinge that allows the bicycle to be folded and placed neatly into most cars' luggage compartments, eliminating the need for unsightly bike racks.

ARIAS

Ford names new VP

FORD Group Phils. has appointed Jesus Metelo Arias as its new vice president for parts and service.

Arias is responsible for developing and overseeing the strategic operations of FGP's parts and service, ensuring continued growth, parts availability, competitive pricing, best-in-class service experience, and high customer satisfaction levels.

Ben, why not citation instead of confiscation?

FULL TANK

Al S. Mendoza

BEN Abalos really means business. He has buckled down to work.

In a directive, Ben, the new MMDA boss, said he wants all chiefs of police of Metro Manila's cities and municipalities to have a direct hand in the implementation of traffic rules in the metropolis.

I like that.

It's always been like that in the past anyway: cops as the main traffic enforcers.

When this setup was changed—MMDA men substituting the police force as directly responsible for the enforcement of traffic rules in the big city—what followed was organized confusion in the streets. Reason: Many MMDA men assigned as traffic enforcers do not know much about traffic enforcement. Many of them leave their posts during crucial moments, as in peak hours of the day or when it's raining. Many of them busy themselves in collecting "*tong*" than in directing traffic.

I raise a glass to you, Ben. Truly, your sense of innovation might yet rub on your men.

* * *

But I have a suggestion, Ben. Why not discard the habit of confiscating a driver's license?

I read in the papers that you have ordered the setting up of license-redemption centers in the metropolis.

Why not centers to pay fines for traffic violations instead?

The act alone of trying to confiscate a license has been a perennial source of bribery.

I know that the issuance of a traffic citation could also be a source of bribery.

But then, I believe that between a license confiscated and a traffic citation issued, the traffic citation should be a better alternative since it does away with less hassles compared to the perceived "multifarious activities" involving the confiscation of a license.

Let us simplify matters, Ben.

Citation, not confiscation. Seemingly, that is the alternative that could finally help delete that society pus called bribery in the street.

* * *

And yes, Ben, bravo to that new approach in dealing with the unauthorized setting up of bus terminals in the metropolis. Surely, these illegal terminals could not have mushroomed without the blessings of ill-minded authorities.

All over the metropolis, we see bus terminals sprouting like weeds during the rainy season. We even see them inside subdivisions, if not near villages, causing discomfort to residents who fall victims to the vehicles' noise and usually black emissions as a result of faulty machines, if not mufflers.

Go on, zero in on their franchises. Do you know that many of the buses plying the metropolis are without franchise?

That racket has been going on for years. Yet, no one has really dared to kill it.

Will it be finally you, Ben?

Just do it, and I'll be on your side.

* * *

What's this I hear that the unions of both Toyota and Honda have filed notices of strike with the Department of Labor and Employment?

Tsk, tsk, tsk. If true, baaad.

The giant car corporations cannot afford to see their employees walk out of their areas of work at a time when the nation is only starting (again!) to try to rebuild its battered economy. Their role in restoring investor confidence in the country is crucial.

Sometime ago, Mitsubishi had its own share of union woes. Was I glad Mitsubishi had come out of that rut in one whole piece.

I can only hope that a speedy solution is forthcoming to avoid the situation at both car plants from getting out of control.

* * *

Believe you me but to me, the world's biggest small car today is the Toyota Echo Verso. Its engine, a mere 1.3, the Echo is a speed demon on the highway. Its stability is a real wonder, too, despite its size. And when it comes to fuel efficiency, boy, only a diesel engine can beat the Echo.

Rey Oben of Otis and Balintawak Toyota dealerships has staked two Echos as hole-in-one prizes during the recent Bill Shaw golf at Wack Wack. Alas, nobody won.

But ever the generous man that he is, Rey has promised to stake another Echo when another tournament of note comes along.

Here's to you, Rey.

* * *

***QUOTE ME.* Give your engine extra power by stepping on the gas a little harder before you change to a higher gear. Saves your engine from getting choked.**

FROM MUNICH TO MANILA

BMW to park here for good

BY VERNON B. SARNE

BAYERISCHE Motoren Werke is officially here. That's BMW to us car freaks.

BMW AG announced last week that the Philippines will be the base of its fifth sales subsidiary in Asia after Japan, Korea, Thailand and Indonesia. The much-admired carmaker from Munich, Germany, will now directly handle its business undertakings in the country through BMW Phils. Corp., which shall start operations in April. BMW is the first European automotive enterprise to pour direct investment in our market, which has long been dominated by Japanese—and very recently, American—car assemblers.

BMW, which in recent years was represented here by Asian Carmakers Corp., will hold 70 percent of the venture with the remaining 30 percent going to ACC owner Jose Ch. Alvarez. Lüder Paysen, BMW senior vice president for group sales division, revealed that while the German company will now oversee its business here, ACC shall remain as its local-assembly partner. With regard to distribution, "BMW Phils. will only look after the wholesale business, leaving the retail side to our current Filipino dealers," according to Paysen.

BMW started looking seriously into our market almost three years ago, after 1,000 BMW vehicles were sold annually in 1996 and 1997. Although the whole Asian market underwent a severe crisis after that period—with BMW sales in the Philippines dropping to a paltry 158 last year—BMW is convinced there is still huge potential for growth in the local market, particularly in the luxury car segment.

Its entry into the Philippine market is also BMW's way of expanding its presence in Asia. "This is part of BMW's global strategy. You've got the example of DaimlerChrysler buying into Mitsubishi to get their foothold on to the Asian market. BMW does it differently. We started back in 1981 with BMW Japan," BMW Phils. president Mark Gilbert explained.

HE'S THE MAN: Mark Gilbert is heading BMW operations in the Philippines.

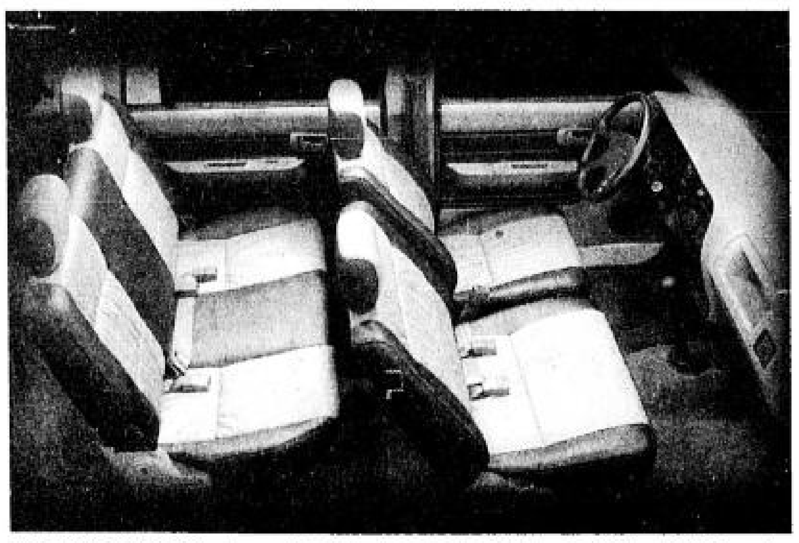
What this means to Filipino car buyers is a wider range of vehicles from the BMW stable for the long haul. Asked which models might be in the immediate pipeline, Gilbert readily cited the X5 sports activity vehicle. Gilbert, who considers the 5-series as his BMW of choice, also hinted at the possibility of bringing in BMW motorcycles and the BMW-owned Mini, depending on the market studies which they have been conducting.

With gorgeous performance cars like the Z3 and the Z8, the BMW brand should find no difficulty endearing itself to a market that has long had a bias for sporty European sedans. Gilbert also noted that the Philippine market pretty much behaves like the North American market. A fact which he pointed out as a boon for BMW as the brand has been a popular success in the United States.

Gilbert is now faced with the challenge of duplicating BMW's success in Japan, where 36,000 units were moved last year. If BMW Phils.' first year is good, it will significantly contribute to the company's worldwide sales which last year hit a record 822,000 vehicles. A 30-member team, including 4 BMW executives, will initially assist Gilbert in reaching his goal.

For a firm that started out as an aviation company in 1916, taking off should be no problem at all.

AMERICAN sport-utes will have to give way to the sleek X5



THE X-TRM Elite has black-and-gray leather seat trims that make its interior exquisite.

Isuzu introduces Hi-lander X-TRM Elite

YEAR in and year out, the country's diesel technology expert Isuzu Philippines Corp. is always geared toward improving its products with constant enhancements. Now at the advent of the year 2001, Isuzu proves unwavering in fulfilling its credo of offering nothing but the best, producing movers that live up to your fast-changing lifestyle.

The previous year marked Isuzu's dominance with a 37-percent market share in the AUV diesel sales category. Leading the pack is the Hi-lander with the sporty X-TRM model at the forefront. In continuance of this supremacy, as early as January of this year Isuzu introduced to the public the new Hi-lander X-TRM Elite—more exquisite, stylized and comfortable to give you elegance like never before. Now with plush leather seats and wood paneling, the X-TRM Elite model guarantees ease and elegance even on the toughest, roughest roads.

The black-and-gray leather seat trims bestow the X-TRM Elite exquisiteness in the interiors. Apart from the improved looks, this enhancement gives you heightened driving comfort. The laminated wood grain panel, on the other hand, further creates a distinguished effect and an elaborate finish for the dash and stereo system, making the Hi-lander an emblem of superior looks. All in all, these upgrades pitch in to the ease and opulence brought by the Hi-lander's roominess, spacious headroom and legroom.

The look of leather and wood in the new X-TRM Elite perfectly matches the Hi-lander's legendary engine performance. With the 4JA1 direct injection diesel engine under its hood, it's absolutely beauty and power at your very hands.

The Hi-lander X-TRM Elite is now competitively priced at P739,000.

Global player in the 21st century

AS companies move toward the new millennium, they continue to reinvent themselves to be more competitive as global players. Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd. (FHI) is one of the top companies in Japan with this vision—to move forward and to cater to the needs of its customers by providing them with technologically sound products.

Established in 1953 as a comprehensive manufacturer of transportation-related products, FHI continues to refine its expertise in all its business divisions—the automobile division, renowned for its AWD technology; the aerospace division; industrial products division; the bus manufacturing and house prefabricating division; and the transportation and ecology systems division.

Motivated by challenge, FHI not only focuses on bringing innovative products to its customers but also takes into account its social responsibility to the community by coming up with products that are directed toward the betterment of human living and the global environment.

With these in mind, FHI sees to it that it conserves energy and uses materials that are environment-friendly without devaluing its high-end products. Starting with its Subaru car lines, FHI reduced the weight of the cars by using less aluminum in some parts of the Subarus in concurrence with high rigidity. This resulted to a weight reduction of more than 1,000 parts.

Its aerospace division, meanwhile, invented the world's first bearing-less rotor system for medium-size helicopters.

Upon the signing of the Montreal Protocol of 1989, FHI started to change the refrigerant of air-conditioning of all its vehicles from chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) to hydrofluorocarbon (HFC). It is also currently into researching the effects of HFC collection devices installed in its cars to global warming.

FHI also conducts researches on manufacturing vehicles running on alternative energies like methanol or natural gas and electricity. In 1993, the Subaru concept car "Sambar EV," which runs on electricity, was unveiled. Two years later, FHI produced the "Elcapa" hybrid car, which economizes fuel and reduces carbon dioxide emission by combining three types of power sources.

With these innovations, FHI is truly a company that looks into the holistic well-being, not only of the environment, but of its valued customers as well.

New battery introduced

ORIENTAL and Motolite Corp., the country's largest battery manufacturer, is introducing the new Oriental Super Premium battery.

Best for both commercial and private use, the new Oriental Super Premium is packed with superior battery features. It is designed to withstand great road stress, making it highly durable and reliable.

The new battery is available in all accredited OMC dealers nationwide.

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People, Events & Products

REZ GOPEZ-SINDAC, Editor

Palanca Awards now accepting entries

THE DON Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literatrue is now accepting entries for this year's 51st Palanca Awards. Deadline for submission of entries is April 30, 2001. Entries sent by mail or courier should be postmarked not later than April 15, 2001.

Entries will be accepted in English and Filipino divisions in the categories: Full Length Play, Poetry, Essay, One Act Play, Short Story, Short Story for Children, Future Fiction and Kabataan Informal Essay. The Short Story category is also open in Iluko, Cebuano and Hiligaynon. The Teleplay and Screenplay are open only on the Filipino division.

The Kabataan Informal Essay is open to all high school students aged 18 and below. Each entry should be four to five pages long. This year's theme is "The Greatest Book I Read'' for the English division and "Ang Pinakamagandang Libro na Nabasa Ko,'' for the Filipino division. Entries to the Kabataan Essay must be accompanied by an attestation from the high school principal that the student is a bona fide student of the school at the time of the contest deadline and that the entry is the author's original work.

Entry forms and contest rules are now available at the Carlos Palanca Foundation Inc., G/F CPJ Bldg. 105 C. Palanca St. Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229. For inquiries, call 818-3681 to 85 locals 31 and 24.

A MUST-STOP FOR SOUTH TRAVELERS

Jollibee Shell South Luzon, which has a design concept that revolves around fun, fiesta and a family atmosphere, was recently inaugurated in conjunction with Shell Tollway Plaza's inauguration. Leading the ribbon cutting ceremony are (from left) Shell VP for retail Benjie Alcover, Jollibee VP for real estate William Tan Untiong, Jollibee regional business unit head for South Luzon Yay Reventar, and Jollibee EVP Ernesto Tan Mantiong.

Brighter future awaits kids who drink Anchor Milk

A BRIGHT future starts with a glass of pure and fresh Anchor Milk.

Each glass of Anchor Milk is rich in vitamins A, C and D3 and calcium to keep your child's body and bones healthy and strong– a sure way of helping your child cope with the rigors of school.

Another way of helping your child get through school is the Anchor Milk Brighter Futures promo.

The Anchor Milk Brighter Future promo, done exclusively with Mercury Drug Corporation, will give away CAP Education Plans worth P200,000 and P100,000.

To join, staple together or place in an envelope one Anchor box top (180g., 450g., 250ml. or 1L) or can tin foil (800g., 1.3kg., 1.8kg. or 2.5kg.) and a Mercury Drug receipt of any Anchor Full Cream Milk Powder or UHT purchase. Write your name, address, phone number and store of purchase on the back of the receipt, envelope, box top or tin foil. Drop boxes will be placed at Mercury Drug stores nationwide.

The Anchor Milk Brighter. Future promo will run until March 31, 2001. Grand draw will be held on April 5, 2001.

New dietary supplement promises to improve stamina, energy

RELIV International Inc., an international manufacturer and network marketer of nutritional supplements and other food technology products recently launched a new dietary supplements that draws on nutrition science to replenish key hormones and revitalize the body's major systems.

The new product, called Reliv ReversAge, is designed to provide essential nutrients from three proprietary complexes, to promote longevity, enhance wellness and reduce the effects of aging at the cellular level.

The first complex replenishes the body's key hormones through a variety of ingredients, including 7 KETO and symbiotropin. These ingredients work together to replace the hormones naturally lost to the aging process.

A second complex delivers anti-oxidants such as Co Enzyme Q10, to support the healthy functioning of major systems, and to halt the damage caused at the cellular level by the presence of free radicals.

The third combines natural herbs such as gingko biloba and maca that are believed to play a role in memory loss, promoting healthy brain function, and eliminating harmful toxins.

"We're extremely excited about the potential impact of this new product,'' said Steve Hastings, director of international marketing. "The research suggests that with regular use, the ingredients in ReversAge will noticeably improve stamina, energy and sleep patterns for those over 40. It's a great example of leveraging the latest advances in food technology to offer nutritionally advanced products that complement today's active lifestyles,'' he added.

Reliv ReversAge is designed to be used as a dietary supplement. A single scoop of the product, blended in a glass of water and consumed at bedtime, will work overnight to restore and revitalize many of the body's most important organs and systems. Most users can expect to see noticeable improvements in a matter of weeks, according to Hastings.

Reliv ReversAge is available exclusively through Reliv's nationwide network of independent distributors.

Reliv International Inc., based in suburban St. Louis, manufactures and distributes several lines of food products, including nutritional and fiber supplements, diet management products, functional foods and sports drink mixes. Its proprietary product lines include an extensive line of soy-based products.

The 1STLife
Our commitment to excellence
catapults First Life's topnotch agents
to the Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT)
2000 Conference in San Francisco, California, U.S.A

FIRST LIFE'S BEST AGENTS FREQUENT US ASSEMBLY

First Guarantee Life Assurance Co. Inc. (First Life) dedicates itself to foster a high standard of professional approach to life insurance sales and service with its representatives attending the Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) annual meeting in San Francisco, California, USA. Danilo M. Adriaga, senior AVP for individual insurance marketing is flanked by (from left) Susan Y. Tan, Ester C. Sy, Patricia J. Garcia Cua, Josie T. Gotohio, Patricia W. Yam, Lourdes T. Yao, Teresita T. Perez and Nancy W. Chua. MDRT is the premier association for the world's best sales professionals in the life insurance business and the annual event gathers the top 6 percent career underwriters from 66 nations and territories, representing about 475 companies.

MSI
Digiland
ORACLE

ORACLE APPOINTS PARTNER DISTRIBUTOR

Oracle Systems (Phils.) Inc. has named MSI Digiland (Phils.) Inc. as its first local Value Added Distributor (VAD). As the accredited partner distributor, MSI Digiland will sell and deliver Oracle iPlatform products and services through its community of resellers. Sealing the agreement with a handshake are MSI Digiland president Jimmy Go and Oracle managing director Bernard Yu. Others in photo are (from left) MSI Digiland product manager for Oracle Eric Chua, MSI Digiland marketing manager Vivian Pasia, Oracle channels manager for VAD Edd Cabardo and Oracle OPP manager Aleli Katigbak.

PHILIPS PRODUCT EXHIBIT

Visit the Philips product exhibit at the ground floor level of SM City North Edsa and get great deals on its top-of-the-line products. One of the world's largest consumer electronics companies, Philips showcases exciting products such as Philips Real Flat TVs, DVD players, Mini Hi-Fi systems with MP3 players, Micro Hi-Fi systems with VCD players, and the latest computer monitors. Exciting giveaways are also up for grabs for every purchase of any Philips product. The exhibit is ongoing until Feb. 11, 2001.

PIZZA HUT OPENING

Bocaue Municipal Secretary Joyce Marie Reyes (second from left) cuts the ceremonial ribbon at the blessing and grand opening of Pizza Hut Petron at the North Expressway in Bulacan. Others in photo are (from left) Medel del Rosario, restaurant manager and Petron officer Noel Gonzales. The restaurant is the 84th Pizza Hut in the country.

How to write for a children's TV show

DISCOVER and develop your writing skills. Learn the fundamentals of television writing for a children's program.

On-line Video Workshops Inc., (OLVW), the first training center for video production in the Philippines is inviting everyone (students, writing enthusiasts, hobbyists, even mothers) to attend a one-day lecture course titled "What Works for Kids: A TV Writing Workshop for Children's TV Shows" on Feb. 24, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Suite 906 Future Point Plaza I, 112 Panay Ave., Quezon City. "5 and Up'' children's TV show supervising producer, Yas Mapua will be conducting the workshop.

For reservations, call Mavic or Malou at 412-7895 or 412-9312 or email at online@netgazer.com.ph. Interested parties may also inquire about OLVW's non-linear editing courses.

BITS Clips

Call Audio-Video Shop opens at Robinson's Galleria

CALL Audio-Video Shop recently held its grand reopening at the second level, Edsa Node of Robinson's Galleria, Ortigas Center. Call Audio-Video Shop is part of Avid Sales Corporation, the country's foremost proponent of the digital lifestyle. Avid Sales Corporation is a chain of 12 stores in Metro Manila and Metro Cebu that offers top-of-the-line consumer products and electrical appliances. Guests were suitably impressed by the shop's spiffy yellow and silver interiors while members of the Avid Club enjoyed substantial discounts on Sony and Aiwa display units.

Librarians' directory

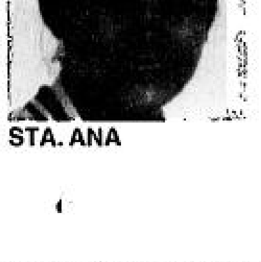
THE BOARD for Librarians announces the publication of the Directory of Licensed Librarians in the Philippines. Information should contain complete name (surname, first name and middle name), license number, designation, office with address and telephone numbers, e-mail address, home address with telephone number and e-mail address. Licensed librarians are requested to send their personal information to: R. Dante O. Perez c/o Institute of Library Science, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City 1101 or through e-mail rdoperez@edsamail.com.ph. Deadline of submission is March 15, 2001.

Leadership seminar

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Library Science Alumni Association Inc. (UPLSAAI) is sponsoring a seminar on "The Librarian as a Leader'' on Feb. 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the UP Law Center Lecture Hall, Diliman, Quezon City. For reservation, contact Arlene A. Marzo at 920-5301 loc. 7669, Vicky Mercado at 521-3166 loc. 196 or Utchie A. Cayabyab at 896-9801.

Seminar on preparing annual reports

A ONE-DAY seminar on "Producing Effective Annual Reports Cost-Effectively'' is being offered on Feb. 23 by Executive Editors. The course updates participants on international practices and local experience in objectives-setting and writing of the annual report, photography, design, printing and new media publishing. It will also serve as a forum for solving production problems experienced by the participants. Lectures include Jack Lim and Franco Patriarca, founding editor in chief and former design director respectively of World Executive's Digest. Two other corporate communication seminars are "Newsletter Publishing,'' scheduled for March 15-16, and "Writing for Business Results'' on March 22-23. For details, call 887-3797 or 98, fax 887-3796 or e-mail execedit@mozcom.com.



STA. ANA

Feature writing contest winner

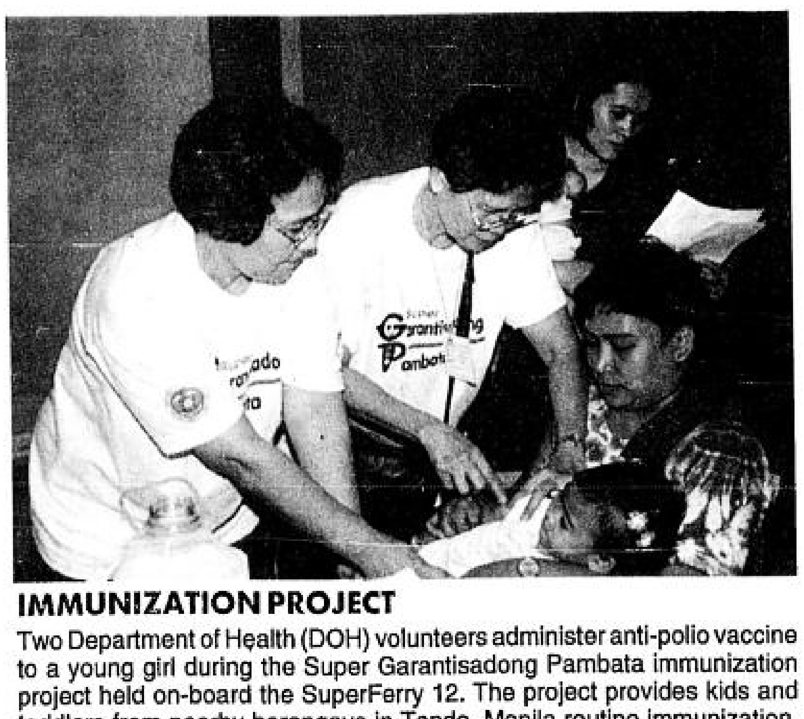
MA. FREDELYN T. Sta Ana, Grade 6 student of Colegio San Agustin, Makati City, won first place in Feature Writing Contest (English), division level, held recently in Valenzuela City. She will represent NCR in the national level contest.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Mary Grace Agustin, widow of SP01 Celeste Agustin (third from left) is the recipient of financial assistance from the Phil.-Chinese Charitable Assn. (PCCA) and the Fil.-Chinese Gen. Chamber of Commerce Inc. (FCGCCI) during the Chinese New Year party tendered by the two organizations in honor of WPD personnel who were killed or wounded in the line of duty. From left are Ong Yee Seng, FCGCCI president; Sr. Supt. Marcelino Franco Jr., WPD deputy district director; and Dr. James G. Dy, board chair and president, PCCA (also honorary president, FCGCCI).

HOT & SEXY

Party animals in bars across the country recently got to party with the newest crunchy, cheese-flavored choice snack, Jack n' Jill Tostillas. The Jack n' Jill Tostillas party recently made the rounds of the most happening bars every weekend nights, livening up the party scene with tons of free samples of the snack and fun games with special prizes. One of the most exciting games was the "Tostilla's Grind" which had couples showing off their most seductive moves to the beat of the Tostillas jingle. Winning this game are Nel Cruz and Blythe Furagganan.



IMMUNIZATION PROJECT

Two Department of Health (DOH) volunteers administer anti-polio vaccine to a young girl during the Super Garantisadong Pambata immunization project held on-board the SuperFerry 12. The project provides kids and toddlers from nearby barangays in Tondo, Manila routine immunization, de-worming, vitamin A administration and weighing. Super Garantisadong Pambata is a joint medical mission of WG&A Phils. and DOH.

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Notice is given of the extrajudicial settlement of estate w/ sale executed by the heirs of Dominga S. Tingson on 1/15/01 before Notary Public Atty Elsa V. Perlas of Pasig City per Doc 113, Page 89, Book XCIV Series of 2001.
(PDI - Feb 1,8 & 15,2001)

Notice is hereby given of the loss of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company Stock Certificates Nos.: 129684, 36364, 116975, MFU33774, 110898, 98344, 98343, 92460, MF092459, MF076763, MF067706, MF057539, MF048469, MF041546, MF041547, MFU13463, MF026335, MF026336, MF018777, MF0012696, MF09769, MFU4441, MF04898, MFU3295, 129685 under the name of Harry G. Fullen and/or Rosa R. Fullen. If no one contest after one (1) year new certificates will be issued.
(PDI-Feb. 8, 15 and 22, 2001)

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Our Dear Papang

LUCIANO SY TEJERO

of Bangued, Abra

Has peacefully joined our Creator on the 28th of January 2001 in Illinois, U.S.A. He was 81.

With our **Mamang Vencing**; we, his children **Ann Marie** and **Victor**, **Luth** and **Roy**, **Luven** and **Arnold**, **Ludy**, **Nette-Nette**, **Aurea** and **Vesko**, **Stella** and **Ivaylo**, **Cresma**, **Arnold**; grandchildren together with his sisters **Pacing** and **Betsy**; and his brother **Jonas**; and other relatives and friends enjoin you to pray for him on his eternal journey with our Lord.

Holy Masses will be celebrated daily at the Faith Chapel of the Arlington Memorial Chapels, (12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City) until Saturday, 10th of February 2001 when we will render our final salutes at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Our Dearly Beloved Tatay

ANG CHIT
(CHUA KHO TEE)

Peacefully joined his Creator on 07 February 2001
at the age of 74.

His wife **Casamira**; loving children and in-laws **Carolina** and **Zosimo**, **Remigio** and **Ofelia**, **Ofelia** and **Ferdinand**, **Elvira** and **Salvador**, **Johnny** and **Dolores**, **Henry** and **Elizabeth**, **Julie** and **Johnson**, **Danilo** and **Edwina**, **Lilian** and **Gothenberg**, **Josephine** and **Richard**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz, Manila, Ground Floor Chapel No. 4.

Interment will be announced later.

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow
me all the days of my life and I shall live
in the house of the Lord forever."
Psalm 23:6

CHRISTIAN DUKE S. PIZARRO

November 18, 1983 - February 5, 2001,
17 years old.

His loving parents **JUN** and **ADETTE**; brother **DONKING**; grandparents, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Chapel inside the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Saturday, February 10, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. immediately after the Mass.

LORETO V. ALZATE

Died in the Grace of our Lord on February 5, 2001
at the age of 80.

His remains lie in state at Funeraria Paz
Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Cremation will follow after the 2:00 p.m. Mass
on February 9, 2001

"You will forever be in our hearts, Daddy."

DR. ORLANDO P. PUA

Medical Center Chief
East Avenue Medical Center
Quezon City

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on the 6th day of February 2001 at the age of 56.

He will be missed by his faithful wife **Aida**; by his children **Monnette**, **Allan**, **Dick**, **Jayson**, **Laida** and **Sophie**; by his daughters-in-law **Nenen** and **Erika**, by his grandchildren **Lance** and **Trixie** and by all of us who were given the Grace to know and love him.

His body lies in state at Chapel B-5, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

Our Dearest Mama

Aurora Alegre Jonson

Peacefully joined her Creator on 04 February 2001 at the age of 83.

Her loving children and in-laws **Aurora Fe** and **Bob (†)**, **Boyer (†)** and **Marivic**, **Azon**, **Lilia** and **Ernie**, **Mona** and **Phil**, **Toto**, **Aida** and **Law**, **Cea** and **Bebo**, **Seny**, grandchildren **Chris** and **Yazzy**, **Patricia**, **Joe**, **Karina**, **Nap**, **Ching** and **Dhes**, **Ana Marie** and **Noli**, **Rene** and **Leda**, **Bernadette** and **Jaime**, **Pauline**, **Russell**, **Ryan** and **Dani**, **Lilia**, **Bonbon** and **Gigi**, **Celeste** and **Jerome**, **Ian**, **Guia**, **Jayjay**, **Brian**, **Nini**, **Charm**, **Jhong**, **Tintin**, **Tino**, **Joy**, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for her eternal repose.

Her body lies in state at the Camp Allen Chapel, Baguio City.

Funeral Mass will be on Saturday, 10 February 2001, 8:30 a.m. at Camp Allen Chapel, Baguio City. Interment will follow at the Baguio Cemetery.

OTILIA CASTRO AGLIPAY

Died in the Grace of our Lord on February 6, 2001
at the age of 84.

Her bereaved children **REGGIE**, **JENNY** and **EVELYN**, **NOLI**, **FREDDIE** and **MALOU**, **OMIE**, **THELMA** and **BASIL**; brother **REGINO CASTRO** and family; sister **ROSITA ENRIQUEZ** and children, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Inc. G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, February 10, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park Sucat, Parañaque after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Arlington Memorial Chapels.

DRA. CANDELARIA (ANDING) CASTRO AGCAOILI

FINAL BURIAL ARRANGEMENT

HER BODY WILL LIE IN STATE AT LA FUNERARIA PAZ UNTIL 10 FEBRUARY 2001 AND WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO RIZAL, LAGUNA ON 11 FEBRUARY 2001.

INTERMENT WILL BE ON 14 FEBRUARY 2001 AT 10:00 AM IN RIZAL, LAGUNA.

LUZ DIZON LAMMOGLIA

April 3, 1921 - January 11, 2001

Widow of CARMELO LAMMOGLIA, passed away peacefully at the Lion's Gate Hospital, North Vancouver.

Survived by her loving children **ELISA** and **LINO**;
daughter-in-law **NENA HYNDMAN**;
son-in-law **JUAN ANTONIO BUENO**;
grandchildren, other relatives and friends.

A funeral Mass will be held on 11 February 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park Chapel at 11:00 a.m. followed by the burial at Garden of Grace II.

VICENTE BATTUNG CO

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on February 2, 2001 at the age of 70.

He is survived by his bereaved wife **Edna**; children **Margaret**, **Catherine**, **Henry** and **George**; grandchildren **Elza Kristen**, **Krysta Antionette**, **Julian Lorenzo**, **Oliver Allen**, **Henry Jr.**, **Kim Julianne**, **Miguel Lorenzo**, **Manuel Antonio**; son-in-law **Julian**; daughter-in-law **Victoria**.

His remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes (Chapel 3-A) 264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, February 10, 2001 at Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park after the 7:00 a.m. Mass.

"I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are Yours."

John 17:9

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For the needs of your departed Loved Ones the following establishments can help you.

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Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel, Pasig City
Tel. Nos. 715 1025 to 28 E-mail arlington@hotmail.com
ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tels. 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City Tel 732-0309; 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu
Tels. 346-2543, 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192

COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City
Tels (082) 227-1201, 227-1258
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City Tel 894-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125, 741-5133 • Fax No. 711-3064
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila
Tels 2812963, 2813034, 2810522
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Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
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LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila
Tels. 711 6931 to 35, 732-4795
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City
Tels 749 3806 to 11
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City Tel. (074) 443-3337

LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City
Tel 895-1011 to 19
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Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal
Tels 645-1855, 682 0209, 682 0210
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264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tels 713-5231 to 35, 714-0867, 714-0868
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St.
Mandalagan, Bacolod City
Tel 433 7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City Tels 831-1204

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Magallanes Village Makati City Tels 852 8228, 852-7284
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16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila
Tels 749-3679, 781-1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City
Tels 372-5084 410-9286 : 87
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue, 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City
Tels. 831-3797; 844-7846, 843-1801; 845-4836

ANNOUNCEMENT

You can now place your **Inquirer Classified Advertisements** (Obituaries • Recruitment Ads • Biddings • Classified Lines) through the following **Provincial Outlets:**

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Dumaguete City
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New Renie's
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. No. (035) 225-4320

Iloilo
Eddie-Mar News and Magazine Center
Ground Floor, Bombo Radio Building
Mapa Street, Iloilo City
Tel. (033) 337-3120

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309 Ledesma Street, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 508-2530
Fax (033) 509-0190

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Montejo's Newspaper Supply
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Tagbilaran City
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Pabayo-Pacana Streets, Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. No. (08822) 722-530

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122 Cruz Taal corner Pabayo Street
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. No. (088) 857-2571/857-1612
Telefax: (088) 231-3248
E-mail: grandstar@hotmail.com

Cotabato
Marquez News and Magazine Agency
51 Sinsuat Avenue, Cotabato City
Tel.: (064) 421-3264

Davao City
Dabaw Periodicals, Inc.
Duterte Street, Davao City
(fronting Galleria Hotel)
Tel. No. (082) 226-4406/221-3379/221-3424/226-2931

Babasahin ATBP.
Lower Level, Gaisano Mall, Bajada
Davao City
Ground Floor, Victoria Plaza, Bajada
Davao City
Tel. No. (082) 221-3927/227-4410

General Santos
Mr. Ramon Dimalanta
GSC Newscenter, Dimalanta Building
35 Pioneer Avenue, General Santos City
Tel. Nos. (083)552-3901/(0912)750-0998

Pagadian City
Mr. Eduardo Villar Clavero
Edmar News - Advertising Agency
Bonifacio Street, Pagadian City
Tel. No. (062) 215-1448/214-2641

Zamboanga
Mr. James Hao
Marien's Variety Store
86-88 Sevilla Street, Zamboanga City
Tel. Nos. (062) 991-4294/991-1438

Mr. Ruben Bautista
#71 C. Atilano Street, Zamboanga
Tel. Nos.: (062) 991-2965/(062) 993-2826

FILEMON "POPOY" LAGMAN

Triumphantly joined his Creator
on 6 February 2001 at the age of 47.

His bereaved children **Dante Josef** and **Mahalia Iskra**, by his late wife **Ma. Lourdes Garduce**, and **Leanne** and her mother **Ma. Lourdes Jopson**; mother **Cecilia**; father **Pedro Eduardo**; brothers **Edcel** and **Hermon** (†); sisters **Nilda** and **Evita**; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law; nephews and nieces; other relatives, friends and comrades request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Church of the Holy Sacrifice, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

Please omit flowers. Donations to the Workers Welfare Program of the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino (BMP) will be appreciated.

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY

For the Design, Construction, Operation, Maintenance and Management of Water Utility Systems

under the

LGU Urban Water and Sanitation Project (LGU-UWSP)

The Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) on behalf of participating Local Government Units (LGUs) and their respective Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committees (PBACs) would like to invite interested local and foreign firms to apply for prequalification and eventually to submit a bid, if prequalified, for the **Design, Construction, Operation, Maintenance and Management of Water Utility Systems under a Long-Term Design-Build-Lease Contract** in the following:

- **Bohol Province—Municipality of Alicia;**
- **Misamis Occidental province—Calamba, Lopez Jaena, Panaon, and Sinacaban municipalities and Oroquieta City;**
- **Quezon province—Buenavista and Padre Burgos**

Prequalification documents are available for issuance to interested potential bidders at the Industrial Restructuring and Research (IRR), 3rd Floor, DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City with telephone no. (632) 867-3221 and fax no. (632) 815-1517; DBP Branches in Ozamiz and Dipolog in Misamis Occ.; DBP Area Management Office in Lucena City; and the offices of the Mayors of the participating city and municipalities. Documents shall be made available to interested bidders on **February 6-12, 2001.**

Five (5) copies of the duly accomplished prequalification statement together with all the documents required to support the statement shall be submitted to the DBP-IRR on or before 5:00 p.m. of **February 26, 2001** (the "Submission Deadline").

The PBACs of the participating LGUs reserve the right to reject any or all bids, waive minor informalities therein, or to accept such bids as can be demonstrated to be advantageous to the participating Local Government Units.

(Sgd.) **MARIETTO A. ENECIO**
Vice-President
Development Bank of the Philippines

(PDI – Feb. 6, 7 & 8, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
CITY OF LEGAZPI
OFFICE OF THE CITY MAYOR
Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project

INVITATION TO BID

Date: February 8, 2001
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 4109-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the ***Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP)*** and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract No. 0035605BNQ-A for the Construction of Banquerohan Multi-Purpose Center with solar drier. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The City of Legazpi, Albay and implementing partner of the DAR for ARCDP invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction of the following sub-project:

Project Number : RIMPC 0035605 BNQ-A
Name of Project : Proposed Multi-Purpose Center and Solar Drier
Location : Barangay Banquerohan, Legazpi City
Description of Project : Construction of Multi-Purpose Center (120 sq.m.) with 448 sq.m. Solar Drier.

Item No.	Work Breakdown Structure	Quantity
A	Column & Column Footing	26.32 cu.m.
B	Wall & Wall Footing	63.81 cu.m.
C	Beam/Slab and Parapet	22.15 cu.m.
D	Slab on Fill	12.00 cu.m.
E	Stair and Canopy	5.86 cu.m.
F	Plumbing and Septic Tank (Inc. T&B)	L.S.
G	Doors and Windows	L.S.
H	Painting	650 sq.m.
I	Electrical	L.S.
J	Solar Drier	448 sq.m.
K	Forms and Scaffolding	8,200 bd.Ft.
SPL-1	Temporary Facilities	1 unit

Minimum Bid Security : P/ 29,000.00
Bid Closing Date : March 9, 2001
Project Duration : 120 C.D.

Minimum Equipment's Required

One (1) unit one-bagger concrete mixer-owned, one (1) unit concrete vibrator-owned.

A complete set of bidding documents maybe purchased by interested bidders at the above office starting **February 8, 2001**, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM upon payment of a non-refundable fee of two thousand pesos (P 2,000.00).

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **February 15, 2001**, 10:00 AM at Legazpi City Hall, Legazpi City.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in a form of Cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft, or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to the Office of the City Mayor, Legazpi City, on or before the bid closing date. Bids will be opened promptly on the above bid closing date in the presence of participating bidders or representatives who choose to attend.

The PBAC-ARCDP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waives any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expense that they incur in the preparation of bid to accept the bid lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) **HON. IMELDA C. ROCES**
City Mayor
Chairman PBAC-ARCDP

(PDI – Feb 8 2001)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Please be informed of our new classified advertising rates effective **February 1, 2001 issue.**

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
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(Metro Manila Edition)

Box Ad - P190.00/col. cm.

Color Surcharge for NC and JM
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Box Ad - P190.00/col. cm.
- No color surcharge

* Rates are VAT exclusive

Republika ng Pilipinas
Pambansang Korporasyon Sa Elektrisidad
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

AD NO. PD 2001-06

Rebidding Date : February 16, 2001 - 10:00 a.m.

PB010202-T3JR5785(PB2)	LIQUIFIED PETROLEUM GAS in 50 kgs. Standard Cylinder
PB010202-T3JR5784(PB2)	CARBIDE INSERTS/TOOL HOLDER
PB010202-T3JR5787(PB2)	ENGINE ASSEMBLY/OVERHAULING GASKET for 4D56 Mitsubishi Pajero
PB010202-T3JR5752(PB2)	AUTOMOTIVE SPARE PARTS FOR Mazda Pick-Up (Shock Absorber, Wiper Blade, etc.)
PB010202-T3JR5781(PB2)	TIRES, 10 00-R20x16 ply with inner tube/ROPE
PB010202-T2JD5748(PB2)	COLIFORM MEDIA
PB010202-T3JR5782(PB2)	TV, GAS STOVE, MICROWAVE OVEN, etc.
PB010202-T3WG5786(PB2)	SERVICES Labor, materials and equipment for the fabrication/ replacement of steel louvers per attached plan/drawing
PB010119-T2JD5725(PB2)	TRACING PAPER, transparent

**Bidding Date : February 26, 2001 - 10:00 a.m.

2001-08-01	SWITCHBOARD/MAGNET WIRE copper, various sizes
2001-08-02	PAINT/PRESS BOARD/SEALANT/PENETRATING OIL
2001-08-03	SPARE PARTS FOR AIRCONDITIONING UNIT (Capacitor, Fan motor, Filter drier, Compressor, Valve, Refrigerant)
2001-08-04	ELECTRODE HOLDER/CUTTING TIP, various tip sizes
2001-08-05	ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES (Fluorescent fixture, wire, wall plate, circuit breaker)
2001-08-06	VACUUM PUMP for BN-25 Islander RP-766
2001-08-07	SWIMMING POOL CHEMICALS
2001-08-08	SPORTS UNIFORM for GCAA Duckpin/Tennis Tournament with NPC & GCAA Logo

Interested parties are invited to prequalify and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Rm. Ground Floor Bldg. 2, NPC- OBC, Quezon Ave. cor. Agham Rd., Diliman, Quezon City.

Accreditation forms can be obtained from Mondays thru Fridays at the Accreditation and Bidding Support Services, Materials Management Department, Ground Floor, Bldg. 2 upon payment of P50.00, submission of company's TIN and proof of listing at the telephone directory. **Deadline for submission of duly accomplished forms on February 15, 2001

Bidding documents available on February 9, 2001 upon payment of P50.00 which is non-refundable, presentation of original Certificate of Accreditation and supplier's number (DCE). **Last day of issuance of bidding documents February 21, 2001

Issuance of accreditation forms and bidding documents mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 AM. For inquiries, please call no. 921-2574.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI - Feb 8 & 9 2001)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Pambansang Pangasiwaan ng Patubig
(NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION)
Lungsod ng Quezon

Invitation to Bid

Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Various Electricity Revenue Meters

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) invites interested manufacturers of their duly authorized distributors to participate in the tendering of Various Electricity Revenue Meters for the Casecnan Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project (CMPP) as follows:

Six (6) units Current Transformers
Six (6) units Potential Transformers
Two (2) units KWH Meter, Multi Function
Two (2) units Test Block/Test Switch

Interested bidders may obtain bid documents starting **February 7-14, 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000) at the Procurement Division, Ground Floor, NIA Bldg., Diliman, Quezon City, Tel. Nos. 921-3906 and 922-4768.

A Pre-Bid Conference shall be held on **21 February 2001**, 2:00 PM at the Conference Room of the Asst. Administrator for Administrative Services, Ground Floor, NIA Bldg., Quezon City.

Bids shall be opened on **06 March**, 2:00 PM at the same venue.

Failure to attend the Pre-Bid Conference will automatically disqualify the bidders.

The NIA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare the bidding a failure or waive any or all informalities or to award such bids to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **ISIDRO R. DIGAL**
Chairman, BAC-B

(PDI – Feb 8 & 12 2001)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Kalihim
Office of the Secretary

PHILIPPINES 2000
Sama-Sama sa DECS

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education, Culture and Sports is inviting all DECS accredited Janitorial Agencies for the bidding of Janitorial Services for the DECS Central Office Year 2001.

All interested agencies must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining bid documents starting February 7 to 14, 2001 at the PBAC Secretariat Office, Rm 112 A, Mabibi Bldg., ULTRA Complex, Pasig City.

A pre-bid conference will be held on February 27, 2001, 10:00 AM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. I, ULTRA Complex, Pasig City. The Submission and Opening of Bids will be on March 7, 2001 at the same time and place mentioned above.

DECS-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) RAMON C. BACANI
Undersecretary
Vice-Chairman, DECS-BAC

(PDI--Feb. 7, 8 & 9, 2001)

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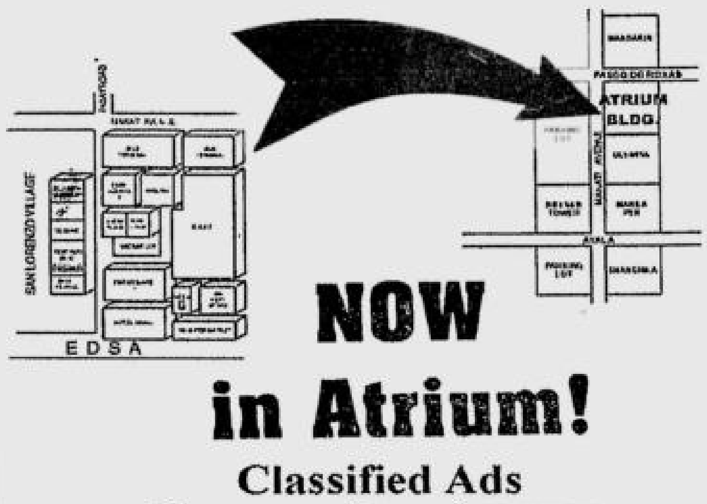

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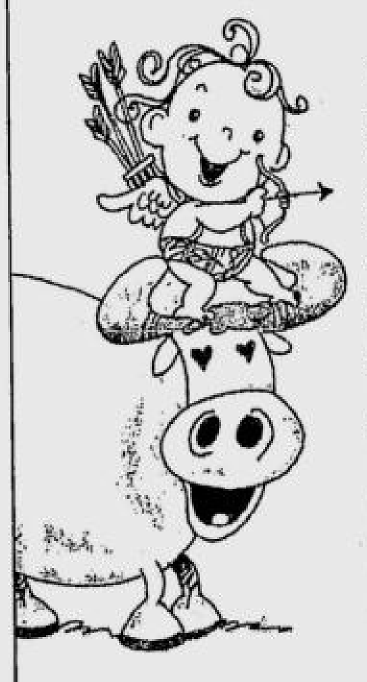

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TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

First pump

Q. What was the world's first gasoline service station?

A. The first was established by Antoine Borol at 41 Rue Sainte-Claire, Bordeaux, France. The French motoring journal La Locomotion Automobile reported that Borol's station had facilities for travellers to park their cars overnight. 'Additionally there is a workshop for the maintenance, repair and cleaning of all automobiles,' the paper continued. 'One can be sure of always finding gasoline and special oil for motors at this depot. Also, of considerable advantage to tourists, Borol sends off on to the road gasoline, oil and spare parts to whoever asks him for them.' As Borol was also the Bordeaux agent for Peugeot cars, he appears to have fulfilled every important function of a modern service station proprietor.

Name Game. ***Ford.*** The famous make of car takes its name from the American engineer and industrialist Henry Ford (1863 - 1947), who manufactured his first automobile, the Quadricycle, in Detroit in 1896. In 1903 he established the Ford Motor Company, the leading manufacturer of affordable cars in the early 1900s. In 1913 Ford began using standardized interchangeable parts and assembly-line techniques in his plant. Although Ford neither originated nor was the first to employ such practices, he was chiefly responsible for their general adoption and for the consequent great expansion of American industry and the raising of the American standard of living.

Pinoy First. The Manila Hotel, designed by American architect William Parsons and inaugurated in 1912, was the first building in the Philippines with air conditioning. It was also the first hotel in Asia fitted with electric elevators.

WORD WATCH

Higa : from the Malay *engah* 'pant, breathe heavily.'

PDI – February 8, 2001

Urban gorillas

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

NOW they want the neck, the head, and other sensitive parts of the anatomy of Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura. Just like what they asked of the man named Band . . . Wrist Band . . . they want him to resign or quit, just take your pick.

Two congressmen gave Tito Paeng those two rather extensive choices. They were none other than Representatives Oscar Moreno and Joker Arroyo. Both starred in the prosecution of Wrist Band in the aborted soap ope . . . no, not that, it was the impeachment case.

Probably missing the good old days of the trial, our beloved congressmen just the other day, all of a sudden, called for a press conference, with all media outfits present, precisely to ask Tito Paeng to do a Wrist Band. You know, just go home!

According to reports quoting the heroic Moreno, who has a little background in finance, Tito Paeng just lost the, ahh, "moral authority" to regulate the banking system. I see, right away, boss! Only problem is, that earned already *(kumita na yan)!*

* * *

IT HAS seen better days, because "moral authority" was the same line of attack deployed against Wrist Band. All right, his morals may not be exactly to die for, because more likely they're to lie down for. But using the same trashtalk against Tito Paeng is funny.

His loss of moral authority, it turned out, had something to do with the closed Urban Bank. This is the same bank which the Department of Justice didn't sue for loss of moral authority but only for losing some P4.8 billion of depositor's money. Estafa *ba!*

Now, in the well-attended press conference, the Moreno-Arroyo tandem revealed a numbered account in Urban Bank. Meaning, it's such a highly "secret" account that it has no name. They said the account is actually suspected to belong to Wrist Band.

Supposedly, a day before Urban Bank closed down itself by declaring its own holiday, the account was also closed. Because the account is suspected to be Wrist Band's, it's clear as daylight to Moreno that Tito Paeng lost moral authority. Get it?

* * *

APPARENTLY, according to Moreno's line of suspicion, Tito Paeng tipped off Wrist Band about Urban Bank. But how? Remember, Bangko Sentral did not close down Urban Bank. By declaring its own bank holiday, Urban Bank closed itself down.

"Bank holiday" means, if you have money in the bank, so sorry! Several days prior to its self-declared "holiday," Urban Bank already bled billions of pesos in deposits. It suffered a heavy bank "run." Withdrawals swarmed the bank like mad for several days.

Reports already circulated that the bank had liquidity problems. As it turned out, indeed, Urban Bank bought billions of pesos in bad debts of its subsidiary Urban Investments, which suffered its own "run." The bank, in a way, gave away cash for trash.

If you owned that secret numbered account in Urban Bank, and it contained more than P130 million, you must be so deaf as not to hear of the "bank run" for several days, you were probably drowning in your own ear wax! Come on, tipped off?

* * *

LET me see if I got this right. Based on the unverified suspicion that the numbered account belonged to Wrist Band, which is based on suspicion over the penmanship of the, ahh, well, same numbers, it's clear Tito Paeng lost moral authority. No, it's not that?

Okay, the suspected owner of the secret account was Wrist Band, and he is suspected to have closed upon the suspected tip-off from Tito Paeng about Urban Bank's closing itself with its own holiday, Tito Paeng lost moral authority. Is that it?

In banking, as I said, if it's a numbered account, it must be a top secret account. Look, it took several hundreds of utterances of "duces tecum" in the impeachment trial, before the prosecution could even get an envelope of a certain account—sealed, at that!

For Tito Paeng to have known about such a top secret account, he must have been sleeping with Wrist Band. If this were so, I think Wrist Band would still be President. We would not have been introduced to . . . well, Jose Velarde!

* * *

TITO Paeng is a banker all his working life. He headed the Citibank operations in Europe and Asia once upon a time. Don't tell me he did not come across a few banking tricks, such as how to hide money, along the way in his long career. In short, the guy is a pro.

But the way Jose Velarde played hide-and-seek was so amateurish, a lot of my friends in banking almost died laughing about how, as revealed in the trial, it was done. Look, we still don't know where the late dictator kept his loot. That kind of pro!

Me, I cannot believe Tito Paeng knew about any secret account of Wrist Band, precisely because they were discovered. I think Tito Paeng is a capable enough to devise more sophisticated schemes than Jose Velarde's. Not that he would do it!

Precisely, Wrist Band never even called up Tito Paeng. Not even once. For that matter, former Bangko Sentral Governor Gabriel Singson swore Wrist Band never called him. Wrist Band respected Tito Paeng. He would never make Tito Paeng do a Dichavez.

* * *

NOW, as if by coincidence, the secret numbered account, the reason why Tito Paeng lost "moral authority," involved the closed Urban Bank. This bank faces a number of estafa cases. The DOJ even wanted to file cases of "economic sabotage."

I know there are some urban guerrillas working for Urban Bank, going around media and such to assassinate the character of Tito Paeng. I know because I, too, received a not-so-faint sound-off from their agents known in our racket as "gorillas."

Don't think, however, that just because the Lakas-NUCD is back in power, and Urban Bank is known to be close to the political party, the cute administration of Gloriaetta is going to back away from the court cases against the bank.

My info from DOJ is that the administration will pursue the cases. Not only that, on top of the two cases that were already filed against Urban Bank officers, right at this very moment, the DOJ is readying another one.

Business meets with GMA's team

THE PHILIPPINE Chamber of Commerce and Industry will meet today with President Macapagal-Arroyo's economic team to discuss the crafting of the new administration's action agenda for the first 100 days.

It will be attended by the PCCI board led by its president, Miguel B. Varela and officers from nine foreign chambers and five other business organizations. The Macapagal economic team will be led by Finance Secretary Alberto G. Romulo.

Among the organizations that will attend the meeting are the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines, Australia-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce, Filipino-Indian Chamber of Commerce, Korean Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FFCCCI), Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop), Philippine Exporters Confederation (Philexport), Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP), Mindanao Business Council (MBC), Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI) and the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP).

PCCI has prepared a list of "quick wins" that will be presented to the economic team for possible inclusion in the administration's action agenda.

Varela said the group would present its position on the North Harbor privatization which "has gone through extensive study and consultations."

Another critical issue the PCCI wants the economic team to consider is the relaxation of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' prudential measures. Varela noted that despite a significant growth in liquidity, credit of commercial banks has not been growing as fast and this he attributed to the BSP's prudential measures.

Subic car auctioneers lash back at assemblers

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AFTER getting the brickbats for flooding the country with used cars, Subic Bay auctioneers have turned the tables on local assemblers whom they chided for failing to build a Filipino car despite nearly three decades of government support and lavish perks.

The Association of Philippine Auctioneers (APA) spokesperson Romeo Armamento said that instead of clamping down on the group's auctions of used vehicles and heavy equipment, the government should review its Motor Vehicle Development Program to assess its past performance and determine its relevance to the country's future.

Armamento said the local assemblers that have benefited from the government's auto development program since the Marcos years should be exporting cars to other countries by now instead of having our roads clogged by brand new, imported luxury vehicles.

He noted that assemblers have not fulfilled their commitment to boost local content as only automotive batteries are procured locally while most parts are imported.

While the assemblers led by the Philippine Automotive Federation Inc. (Pafi) charged the Subic auctions as fronts for smuggling, Armamento claimed the assemblers were openly evading taxes and abusing government's perks by declaring cars and commercial vehicles assembled abroad as completely knocked down units to avail themselves of lower duties. A completely built up unit is charged a maximum duty of 30 percent while a CKD is charged only 3 percent duty.

Armamento, who is chief administrator of Asian International Auctioneers Inc., also refuted allegations by the Pafi. He stressed that the APA has suspended the auction of used cars in compliance with a government directive prohibiting the sale of right-hand drive vehicles and that all vehicles placed under the hammer go through a rigorous quality control system.

APA will continue to sell heavy equipment and construction machine whose importation has been liberalized by the government.

Armamento said the APA provides the Filipino car buyers with cheaper, yet quality alternatives to the pricey models peddled by the local assemblers. He said his group's unreserved public auctions have become a hit to Filipinos because of their competitive pricing.

"If the buyers think that an item is valued at a certain price, we have no choice but to sell even if the price is below the cost of the consignor," said Armamento who noted that these types of auctions are also held in regularly in Japan, Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand. Aside from AIA, the other Subic auctioneers are JMVC and Subic Auctioneers International.

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BUSINESS

Economy seen to recover in 1 to 2 years

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

EIU Philippines, a private think tank affiliated with the London-based Economist Intelligence Unit, expects the Philippines to achieve full economic recovery in one to two years.

EIU Philippines president Peter Wallace said the "fairly quick" change in the administration has revived investor confidence in the country and averted an inevitable economic downward spiral if President Estrada held on to power.

The EIU expects the country's gross domestic product to grow by 3.5 percent this year (from a 1.9-percent growth under Estrada) and by 4.5 percent next year (from the projected 4.8-percent decline under Estrada).

"The crisis is over and it is now time to get back to business. But investment inflows would only come within one or two years which is the time it would take for businessmen to scout and assess whether to go ahead," Wallace said.

Wallace said President Macapagal-Arroyo's assumption of the presidency was misunderstood by the Western media as the work of a few influential individuals and not as an expression of the majority of Filipinos disgusted with a corrupt and blundering president. "I believe the Filipino people deserves a Nobel Peace Prize for People Power II," Wallace said.

Wallace said that contrary to a number of people's views, Ms Macapagal has shown she has strength of character in just three weeks in office by remaining composed despite rumors of a coup d'etat and responsive to the public's outcry on some of her Cabinet appointments.

"We can't expect to change things miraculously in just a matter of weeks. Change will take time but she has proven that she can step in and do the job," said Wallace who urged the President to serve justice on those who betrayed the nation's trust, particularly Estrada and his gang.

Wallace said the new administration should enjoy a boost from some favorable factors in the economy such as stable foreign exchange rate, and low interest rates and inflation rate.

The upcoming May elections should lead to a mini-boom in select industries particularly telecommunications, paper, poultry, health care, footwear, hotel and leather.

The elections should result into an administration-friendly Congress that should augur well in the implementation of reforms. "If she does well in the next three years, the President can look forward to another 6-year term in 2004. She can implement a lot of long-term economic reforms with a nine-year term."

However, Wallace said the new administration's biggest headaches are the ballooning budget deficit, worsening non-performing loans of banks, and a slowdown in the US economy.

Wallace cautioned the government against jacking up tax collections on those who are already shouldering the bulk of collections. "The government should tax those who are not paying their dues," Wallace said.

INVESTMENT MIX RULES STAY

SEC junks pre-need firms' plea

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has rejected the petition of the Philippine Federation of Pre-Need Plan Companies Inc. seeking the relaxation of restrictions on the trust fund investments of pre-need insurance companies.

The PFPPCI, however, has asked the SEC to reconsider its decision.

"We are merely requesting the SEC to keep an open mind since we believe that these recommendations are for the good of the industry. We also believe that they will in no way reduce the protection intended by the investment mix circular," PFPPCI president Miguel Vasquez asked the SEC in a letter dated Feb. 1, 2001.

He said the group's recommendations were intended only for companies that have fully complied with the investment mix circular or those with approved compliance plans.

The group's recommendations that were junked by the SEC are as follow:

- To conduct real estate appraisal on pre-need firms' trust fund investments only once every two years instead of five times, as provided in the SEC rules, and the use of 100 percent of the value of the real estate instead of only 50 percent;
- To base the valuation of equities on market price instead of cost;
- To allow pre-need companies to invest up to 10 percent of their trust funds in affiliated companies; and
- To allow the pre-need firms to invest their trust funds in foreign currencies and securities, adjust the risk rating required and allow mortgage loans that are fully collateralized.

The SEC last year came up with the investment mix circular restricting pre-need companies' trust fund investments to fixed-income securities, real estate, equities, mutual funds and direct loans, limited to a certain percentage of the fund. The SEC traced the failure of several pre-need companies to bad trust fund investments, particularly heavy investments in real estate.

In his letter to the SEC, Vasquez requested an audience with the commission en banc to explain the views of the federation.

Ayala raising ₱2.6B for Greenbelt project

By Doris C. Dumlao

PREMIER property developer Ayala Land Inc. is raising up to P2.6 billion in fresh funds to boost its resources for the redevelopment of the Greenbelt shopping complex in Makati.

ALI officials yesterday said the funds would most likely be raised through a loan syndication being arranged by the Ayalas' investment house, BPI Capital.

"There's a new facility being worked out and it might be P2.6 billion or less," the official said.

Also being considered by ALI is a facility of Japan's Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). But to avail itself of this facility, ALI has to ask the Japanese agency to make the Greenbelt project eligible for the financial assistance.

JBIC is active in extending loans to the Philippines for industrial and infrastructure development.

Other officials said ALI had already used up around P10 billion in credit line from the Development Bank of the Philippines, the government's development banking arm through which bilateral donors such as JBIC courses its loans.

The multibillion-peso redevelopment of ALI's Greenbelt commercial complex is scheduled for completion in 2002.

ALI is the largest real estate developer in the Philippines while its mother company, Ayala Corp., is the largest and most diversified conglomerate in the Philippines.

ALI's net profit as of the first nine months of last year plunged by 16 percent due to the slump in land and condominium sales, and aggravated by high interests.

But amid the doldrums in the local property sector, the Ayala group is scouting for opportunities in offshore markets.

Last year, it tied up with Grosvenor Ltd. of Hong Kong and Uni-Asia Finance Corp. of Japan to form a new real estate company that would exploit fresh business opportunities in greater Tokyo.

The company, named as AP Real Estate C.I., will invest $50 million in residential projects in greater Tokyo over the next five years.

Grosvenor Ltd. is the Asian arm of UK-based international property and investment group Grosvenor Estate Holdings

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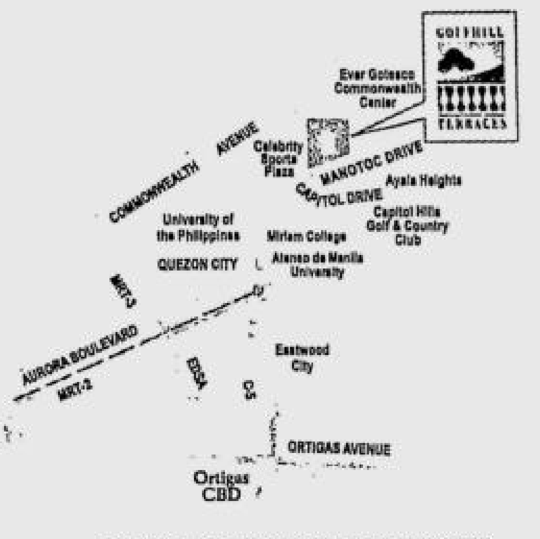

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LIFESTYLE

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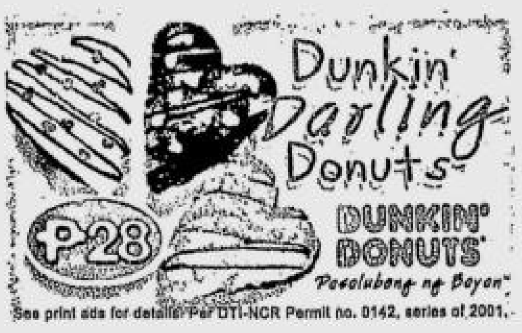
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(CLOCKWISE): Bulalo with Mais, Patola with Misua and Utak ng Baboy, Balot à la Pobre, Adobong Camaro, Fried Adobong Pugo, Gatang Langka with Dried Fish

Food for love

Aphrodisiacs appear on the menu around Valentine's Day for obvious reasons

"COOKING aphrodisiacs is easy," says 23-year-old chef Adji Tiongson, guest chef of "Kusina at Iba Pa" hosted by Bambi Licauco on PTV 4 recently.

After studying cooking techniques the past two years at the Culinary and Hospitality Institute of Chicago, Tiongson returned to the Philippines and assumed responsibilities for Cabalen's product development.

The aphrodisiacs he prepares with no sweat are served during this month for lovers at Cabalen in its eat-all-you-can, eat-all-you-want P220 buffet, among them Balot à la Pobre, Adobong Camaro, Fried Adobong Pugo, Chicken Tail Barbeque, Ginisang Patola with Misua and Utak ng Baboy, and Gatang Langka.

To go with the love feast is the drink of the month called Love Shake, an irresistible concoction of watermelon, melon and mango.

Food lovers who wish to try these dishes may visit Cabalen Restaurant's seven branches at West Avenue, QC; SM Megamall B Mandaluyong; Glorietta 3, Ayala Ceter; Robinsons Place, Ermita; Katipunan Avenue, Blue Ridge QC; SM City North Edsa; SM City, Manila and the soon-to-open Cabalen at Sta Lucia Mall in Cainta.

Meanwhile, the young chef shares his hearty recipes that are guaranteed to make you feel romantic.

Adobong Camaro

1½ c *camaro*
½ c cooking oil
2 tbsp garlic, crushed
¼ c onion, sliced
1 c tomato, sliced
¼ c vinegar
¼ tsp whole black pepper, ground
1 tsp rock salt

Clean *camaro* (crickets)—remove wings, feet and head. Set aside. Peel and crush garlic. Peel and slice onions. Wash and slice tomatoes.

In a clean container, combine clean *camaro*, vinegar, ground black pepper, salt and 1 tbsp garlic. Bring to boil until sauce dries up. Set aside. Sauté 1 tbsp garlic until golden brown. Add onions and cook until wilted. Add sliced tomatoes and cook until mushy. Stir. Add marinated *camaro*. Boil for 30 seconds. Reduce fire. Stir. Continue simmering until sauce dries up.

Patola with Misua and Utak ng Baboy

5 pcs *patola*
¼ c cooking oil
1 tbsp garlic
¼ c onion
½ c pork brain
¼ c fish sauce (*patis*)
1 c *misua*
10 c water
1 tsp vetsin

Wash and drain *patola*, peel and slice into thin round shapes. Set aside. Peel and crush garlic. Peel and slice onions. Chop pork brain.

Sauté garlic until golden brown. Add onions and cook until wilted. Add fish sauce and pork brain. Stir. Simmer for 3 minutes. Add *patola* and water. Simmer for 3 more minutes. Add *misua* and vetsin. Stir. Continue simmering for 3 minutes. Taste and serve at 250 g per order.

Balot à la Pobre

5 pcs fertilized duck egg (*balot*)
2/3 c cooking oil
2 tbsp garlic, crushed

FOOD/ p.C5

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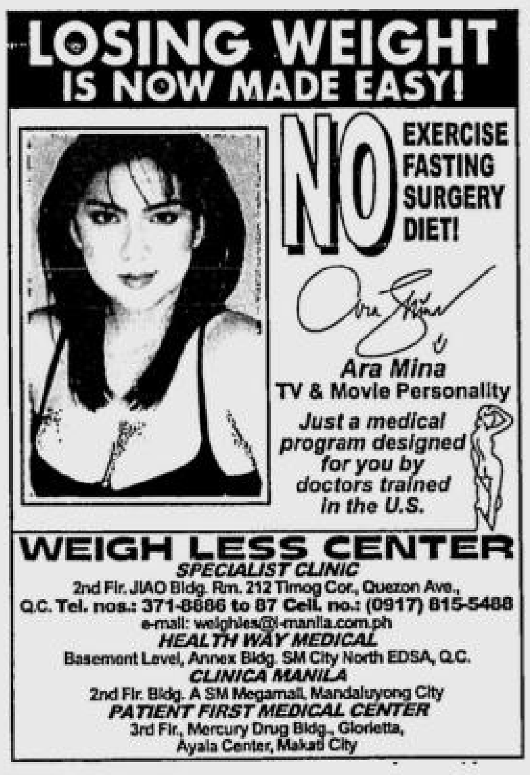
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HEALTH WAY MEDICAL
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CLINICA MANILA
2nd Flr. Bldg. A SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City
PATIENT FIRST MEDICAL CENTER
3rd Flr., Mercury Drug Bldg., Glorietta, Ayala Center, Makati City

This Valentine's, discover the many ways to capture her heart.

lovelights
earrings in 18k white gold encrusted with pavé diamonds

higher ground
silk top in tangerine by due

celebrate the places in her heart

shining moment
ladies' watch in 18k white gold with diamonds by vacheron constantin at the silver vault

curve appeal
silk wrap skirt in magenta by due

She's such a treasure.
Every part, every precious curve
must be pampered and loved.
Find those secret places
in the heart only at Rustan's.

head over heels
strappy stiletto heels in silver satin by rodo

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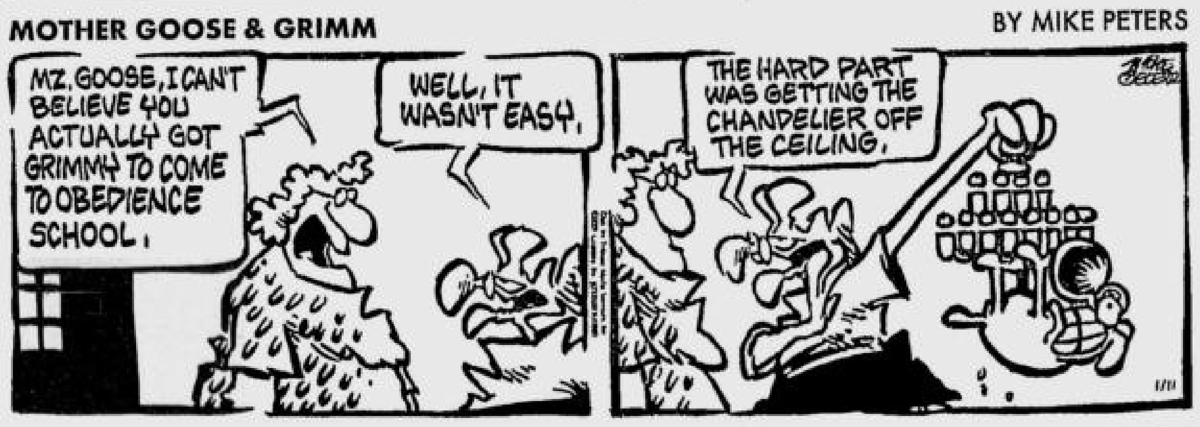
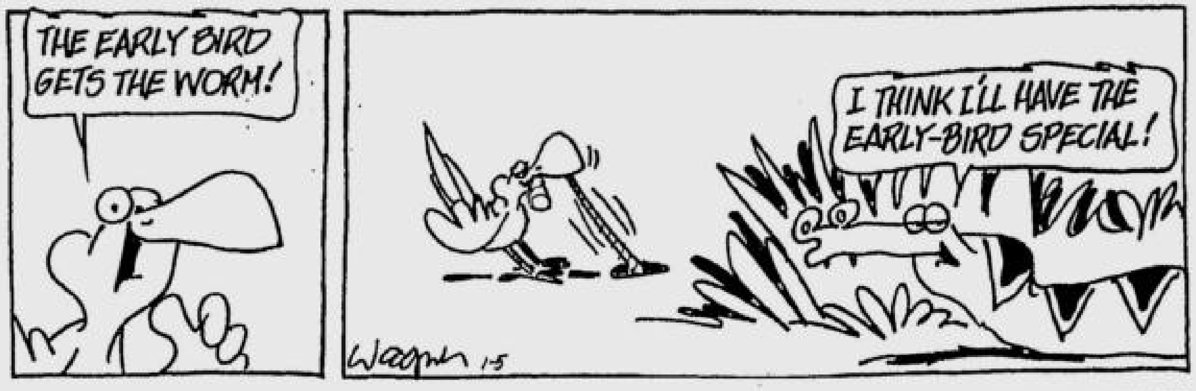
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


MZ. GOOSE, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ACTUALLY GOT GRIMMY TO COME TO OBEDIENCE SCHOOL.
WELL, IT WASN'T EASY.
THE HARD PART WAS GETTING THE CHANDELIER OFF THE CEILING.
1/11

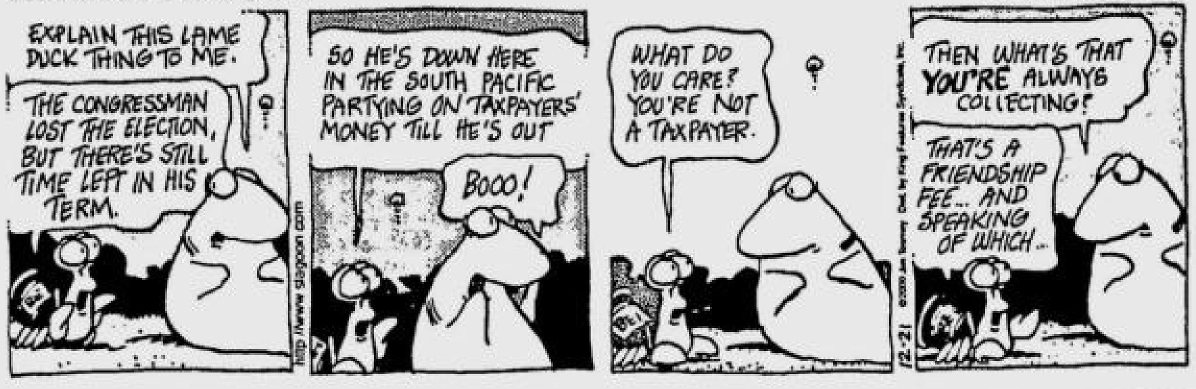
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


THE EARLY BIRD GETS THE WORM!
I THINK I'LL HAVE THE EARLY-BIRD SPECIAL!
Wagner 1-5

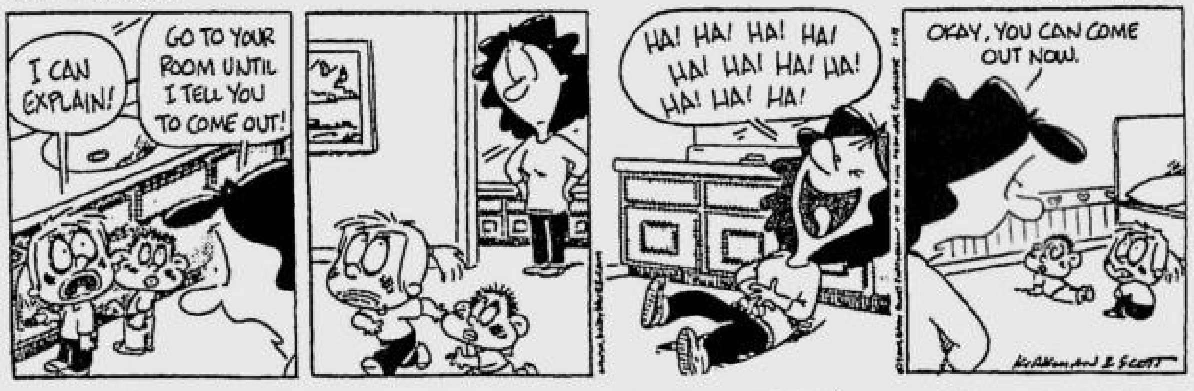
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


EXPLAIN THIS LAME DUCK THING TO ME.
THE CONGRESSMAN LOST THE ELECTION, BUT THERE'S STILL TIME LEFT IN HIS TERM.
SO HE'S DOWN HERE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC PARTYING ON TAXPAYERS' MONEY TILL HE'S OUT
BOOO!
WHAT DO YOU CARE? YOU'RE NOT A TAXPAYER.
THEN WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE ALWAYS COLLECTING?
THAT'S A FRIENDSHIP FEE... AND SPEAKING OF WHICH...
http://www.slagoon.com
12-21

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I CAN EXPLAIN!
GO TO YOUR ROOM UNTIL I TELL YOU TO COME OUT!
HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!
OKAY, YOU CAN COME OUT NOW.
KIRKMAN AND SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jack Lemmon, James Dean, Lana Turner, Mary Steenburgen, Ted Koppel, Alonzo Mourning, Nick Nolte, John Grisham, Seth Green

Happy Birthday: This is a year of change. The more laid-back and easygoing you are, the better the results. Adaptability will be the secret to your success. This is a year not to worry but to take a chance and follow your instincts. It's up to you to be open and receptive to every opportunity that comes your way. If you waver, you'll be left behind. Your numbers: 13, 17, 29, 33, 42, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will be emotional if you have been extravagant or let children or friends take advantage of you financially. You should channel your efforts into getting rid of bad habits.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Refrain from putting demands on your partner. You should look over the home-improvement plans that your family would like to make. A female member of your family will be difficult to get along with.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You need to spend time with close friends. Office politics will be too much to handle. Don't become involved if you wish to spare your reputation.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can make headway at work. Present your ideas and don't back down if you get some opposition. Entertain potential clients, but don't overspend.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Emotional stress will take over if you allow others to aggravate you. Do your own thing and refuse to get involved in any debates that could lead to emotional turmoil.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Property investments will finally pay off. Don't hesitate to look into interesting business opportunities. You can make changes to your living arrangements that will benefit the whole family. A change will lift the spirits of those you live with.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't hang out with eccentric or unpredictable people. Overindulgence will be your downfall. Do not get involved in joint financial ventures.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A jealous rage may result if your mate is trying to back away from you. Stay calm; you can't force anyone to love you. Look ahead and let go of the past.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You need to do something adventurous. Boredom is the enemy. New surroundings or interesting people will help make your day stimulating and informative.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can sign contracts today. Don't be too eager to let others in on your financial status. It is wise to keep your thoughts to yourself. Don't spend unnecessarily.

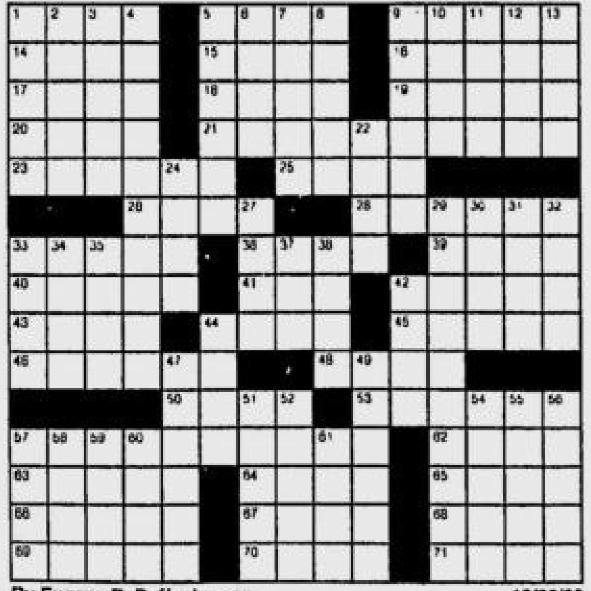
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may have a change of heart regarding your partner. Don't take too long to reveal how you feel and what your future plans are. It's time to get on with your life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Tend to your work and stay away from idle chatter and gossip. You will have to be careful while operating equipment. Chances are good that you'll reveal secret information if you aren't careful. Don't allow others to take you for granted.

Birthday Baby: You possess plenty of creative talent that will lead you down interesting pathways throughout life. You have the ability to set your own stage and act in a role that becomes you. You are gifted and gracious.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Eugene R. Puffenberger
Houston, TX

12/26/00

ACROSS
1 Stinging blow
5 27th president
9 Very, in music
14 Singer Amos
15 __ vera
16 Large antelope
17 Destroy
18 Man or Wight
19 Actor Nick
20 Church recess
21 Christmas greenery
23 Herman or Reese
25 Workplace injury grp.
26 Stir up
28 On terra firma
33 Dutch painter Jan
36 Flaming Gorge state
39 Norwegian saint
40 Closing measures
41 Greek cross
42 Skirt style
43 Last bio
44 Graham or Deborah
45 Clumps of dirt
46 Monty __
48 Pale
50 Poverty
53 Shish __
57 Christmas greenery
62 Judah's son
63 "A Rage to Live" author
64 Rodgers' collaborator
65 Do __ others as...
66 Within the rules
67 Heroic saga
68 Church or movie follower
69 Live
70 Polish leader Walesa
71 Jekyll's alter ego

DOWN
1 Leather band
2 Jeweler's glass
3 Come up
4 Christmas greenery
5 Taiwan's capital
6 Additionally
7 Page number
8 Adolescents
9 Virgil's hero
10 Open position
11 Weapons talks, briefly
12 Against: pref.
13 Think-tank product
22 Persian ruler
24 Huge timespan
27 Pipe sealant
29 Christmas greenery
30 Melange
31 Author Ayn
32 12/24 and 12/31
33 English bard
34 Drinking mug in the shape of a stout man
35 Redact
37 Veteran sailor
38 Glow
42 Dull pain
44 Jerk preceder
47 Available by beeper
49 Draw
51 Waters or Merman
52 Enwrap
54 Bedevil
55 Moderated
56 Saw wood
57 Auctioneer's last word
58 I'm glad that's over!
59 Storm
60 Caspian feeder
61 Clapton or Ambler

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	A	G	■	M	A	D	A	M	■	E	C	O	L	E
U	S	E	■	I	R	A	N	I	■	S	O	N	A	R
C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	■	K	N	O	W	N
H	Y	M	N	■	■	P	I	C	N	I	C	■	■	■
■	■	■	S	L	Y	■	S	H	A	M	R	O	C	K
P	A	R	T	I	A	L	■	A	M	O	E	B	A	E
E	R	E	■	S	K	Y	E	■	■	■	T	I	R	E
E	C	L	I	P	S	E	O	F	T	H	E	S	U	N
W	A	I	F	■	■	■	N	A	H	A	■	P	S	A
E	N	S	N	A	R	L	■	N	E	W	M	O	O	N
E	A	T	E	R	I	E	S	■	A	S	O	■	■	■
■	■	■	E	N	G	I	N	E	■	■	O	O	Z	E
H	O	R	D	E	■	B	O	X	I	N	G	D	A	Y
A	R	A	B	S	■	E	R	O	D	E	■	O	N	E
G	E	N	E	S	■	R	E	D	I	D	■	R	E	D

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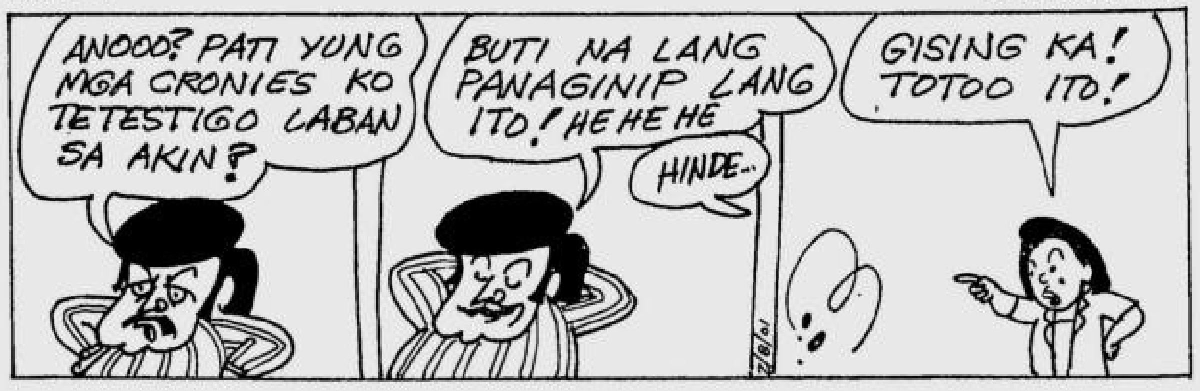
12/26/00

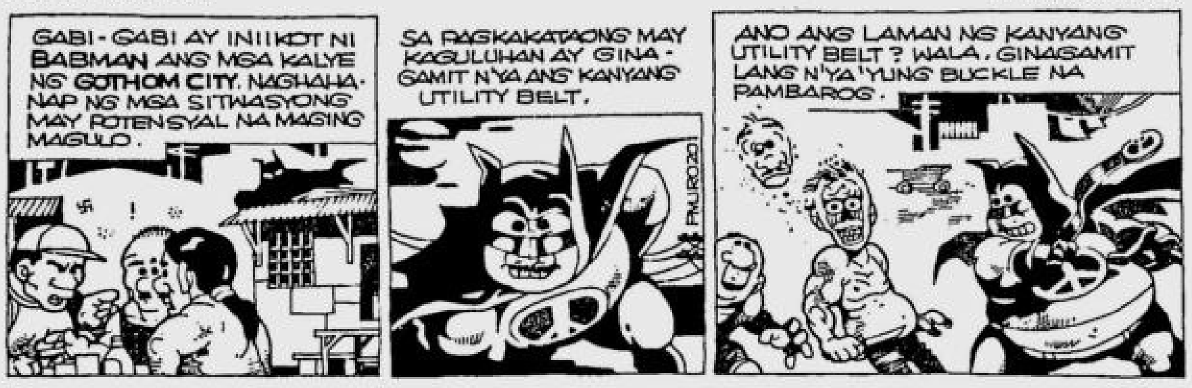
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANOOO? PATI YUNG MGA CRONIES KO TETESTIGO LABAN SA AKIN?
BUTI NA LANG PANAGINIP LANG ITO! HE HE HE
HINDE...
GISING KA! TOTOO ITO!
2/8/01

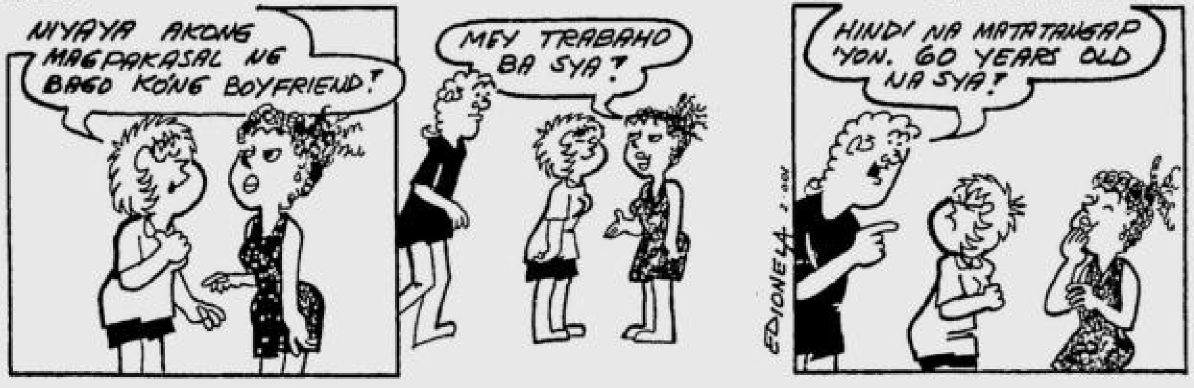
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


GABI-GABI AY INIIKOT NI BABMAN ANG MGA KALYE NG GOTHOM CITY. NAGHAHANAP NG MGA SITWASYONG MAY POTENSYAL NA MAGING MAGULO.
SA PAGKAKATAONG MAY KAGULUHAN AY GINAGAMIT N'YA ANG KANYANG UTILITY BELT.
ANO ANG LAMAN NG KANYANG UTILITY BELT? WALA. GINAGAMIT LANG N'YA 'YUNG BUCKLE NA PAMBAROG.
PMJR020

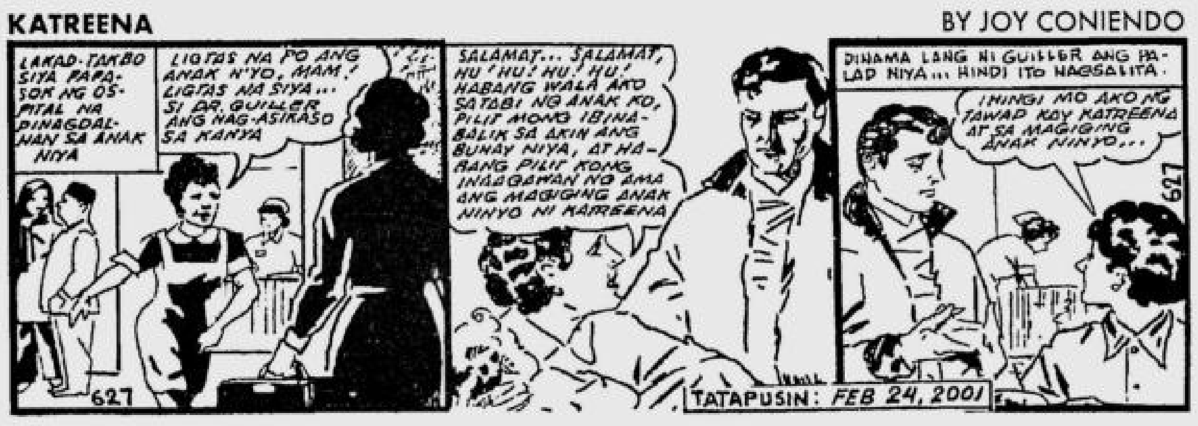
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


NIYAYA AKONG MAGPAKASAL NG BAGO KONG BOYFRIEND!
MEY TRABAHO BA SYA?
HINDI NA MATATANGAP 'YON. 60 YEARS OLD NA SYA!
EDIONELA

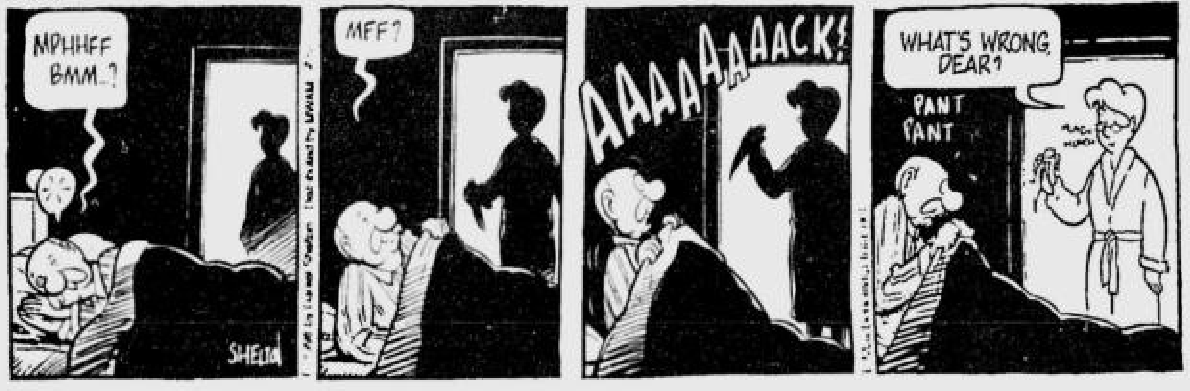
KATREENA

BY JOY CONIENDO


LAKAD-TAKBO SIYA PAPASOK NG OSPITAL NA PINAGDALHAN SA ANAK NIYA
LIGTAS NA PO ANG ANAK N'YO, MAM! LIGTAS NA SIYA... SI DR. GUILLER ANG NAG-ASIKASO SA KANYA
627
SALAMAT... SALAMAT, HU' HU! HU! HU! HABANG WALA AKO SATABI NG ANAK KO, PILIT MONG IBINABALIK SA AKIN ANG BUHAY NIYA, AT HAHANG PILIT KONG INAAGAWAN NG AMA ANG MAGIGING ANAK NINYO NI KATREENA
DINAMA LANG NI GUILLER ANG PALAD NIYA... HINDI ITO NAGSALITA.
IHINGI MO AKO NG TAWAD KAY KATREENA AT SA MAGIGING ANAK NINYO...
627
TATAPUSIN: FEB 24, 2001

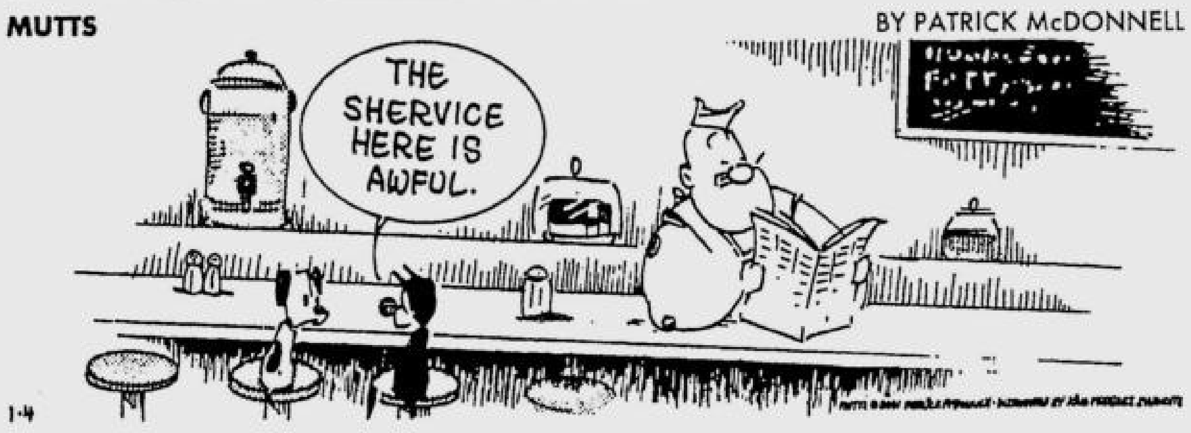
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


MPHHFF BMM..?
SHELTON
MFF?
AAAAAAAACK!
WHAT'S WRONG DEAR?
PANT PANT

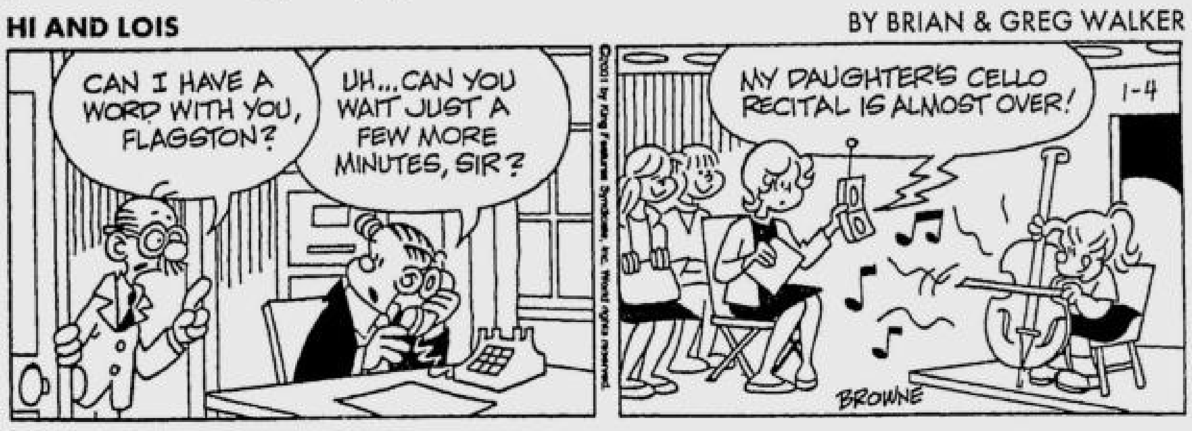
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


THE SHERVICE HERE IS AWFUL.
1-4

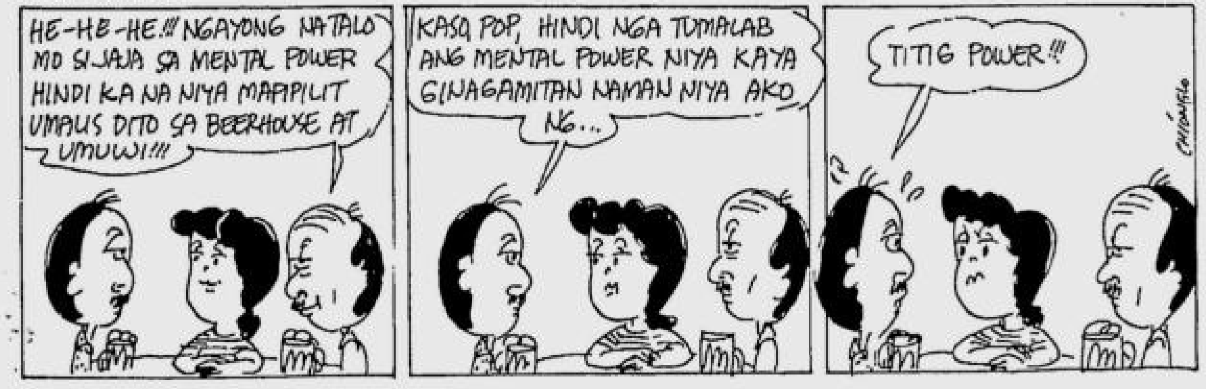
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


CAN I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU, FLAGSTON?
UH... CAN YOU WAIT JUST A FEW MORE MINUTES, SIR?
MY DAUGHTER'S CELLO RECITAL IS ALMOST OVER!
1-4
BROWNE

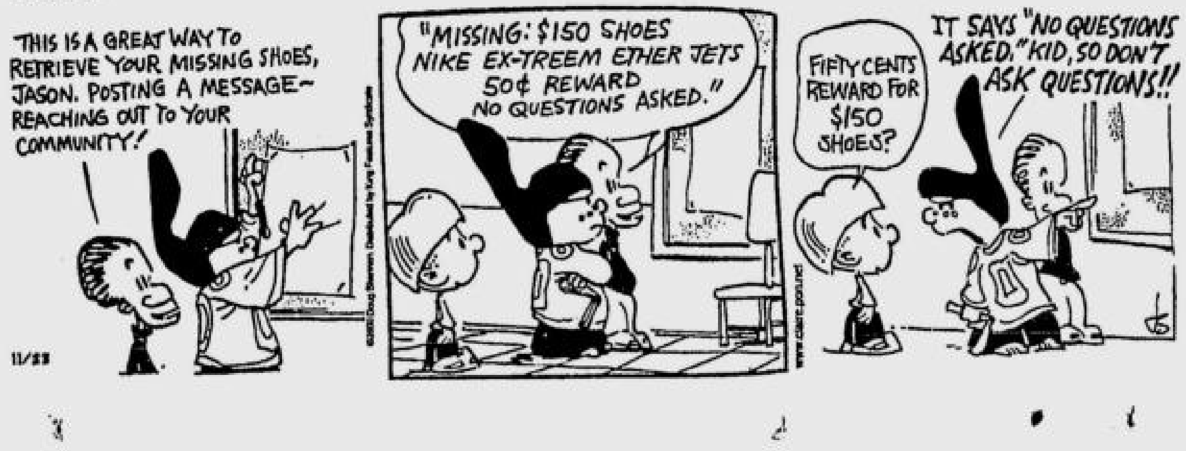
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


HE-HE-HE!!! NGAYONG NATALO MO SI JAJA SA MENTAL POWER HINDI KA NA NIYA MAPIPILIT UMALIS DITO SA BEERHOUSE AT UMUWI!!!
KASO POP, HINDI NGA TUMALAB ANG MENTAL POWER NIYA KAYA GINAGAMITAN NAMAN NIYA AKO NG...
TITIG POWER!!!
CHIONGLO

CLAIRE

BY DOUG SHANNON


THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO RETRIEVE YOUR MISSING SHOES, JASON. POSTING A MESSAGE– REACHING OUT TO YOUR COMMUNITY!
"MISSING: $150 SHOES NIKE EX-TREEM ETHER JETS 50¢ REWARD NO QUESTIONS ASKED."
FIFTY CENTS REWARD FOR $150 SHOES?
IT SAYS "NO QUESTIONS ASKED." KID, SO DON'T ASK QUESTIONS!!
11/23

A funny e-mail about skimming flavors on holidays

ASK NORA

Nora Daza

GOT an e-mail from a cousin who is the great-grandson of the sister of my great-grandfather (are you following this?), a Villanueva who belongs to the American and Spanish branch of our family.

It is an article that was written by Craig Wilson of the USA Today. Its title is "Thou shalt not skim flavor from the holidays." It reminds me of a friend who had had a heart attack and had all kinds of health problems. As we were eating, he said, "Well, I am no longer allowed to eat this and that. I have become a rabbit. I am allowed to eat only lettuce leaves. I think Wilson's piece is sooo funny so instead of the usual Q&A, I am sharing some portions of it with our readers.

"I hate this time of year. Not for its crass commercialism and forced frivolity, but because it's the season when the food police come out with their wagging fingers and annual tips on how to get through the holidays without gaining 10 pounds.

"You can't pick up a magazine without finding a list of holiday eating dos and don'ts...

"I have my own list of tips for holiday eating. I assure you, if you follow them, you'll be fat and happy...

"1. About those carrot sticks. Avoid them. Anyone who puts carrots on a holiday buffet table knows nothing of the [holiday] spirit. In fact, if you see carrots, leave immediately. Go next door, where they're serving rum balls.

"2. Drink as much eggnog as you can. And quickly. Like fine single-malt scotch, it's rare. In fact, it's even rarer than single-malt scotch. You can't find it any other time of the year but now. So drink up! Who cares that it has 10,000 calories in every sip? It's not as if you're going to turn into an eggnogaholic or something. It's a treat. Enjoy it. Have one for me. Have two. It's later than you think…

"3. If something comes with gravy, use it. That's the whole point of gravy. Gravy does not stand alone. Pour it on. Make a volcano out of your mashed potatoes. Fill it with gravy. Eat the volcano. Repeat.

"4. As for mashed potatoes, always ask if they're made with skim milk or whole milk. If it's skim, pass. Why bother? It's like buying a sports car with an automatic transmission.

"5. Do not have a snack before going to a party in an effort to control your eating. The whole point of going to a... party is to eat other people's food. Lots of it. Hello?

"6. Under no circumstances should you exercise between now and New Year's. You can do that in January when you have nothing else to do. This is the time for long naps, which you'll need after circling the buffet table while carrying a 10-pound plate of food and that vat of eggnog.

"7. If you come across something really good at a buffet table... position yourself near them and don't budge. Have as many as you can before becoming the center of attention. They're like a beautiful pair of shoes. You can't leave them behind. You're not going to see them again.

"8. Same for pies. Apple. Pumpkin. Mincemeat. Have a slice of each. Or, if you don't like mincemeat, have two apples and one pumpkin. Always have three. When else do you get to have more than one dessert? Labor Day?

"9. Did someone mention fruitcake? Granted, it's loaded with the mandatory celebratory calories, but avoid it at all cost. I mean, have some standards, mate.

"10. And one final tip: If you don't feel terrible when you leave the party or get up from the table, you haven't been paying attention. Reread tips. Start over."

E-mail Nora at ngdev@info.com.ph or write her at PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

Tips for Holiday Eating
steph B.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Reggie Aspiras holds culinary classes at Shangri-La

THE REGGIE Aspiras School of Culinary Arts, located at the BonApetit, 3/F Shangri-La Plaza Mall, has announced its classes for the month of February. The schedule is as follows:

Feb. 9 (Valentine Series): Chocolate Romance—Old Fashioned Mud Pie, Truffle Cake, Black and White Cheese Cake, Tiramisu Choux Pastry, Fudgy Peanut Butter Cake, Delicious Turtle Pie

Feb. 12 (Valentine Series): Say It with Chocolates—Chocolate Caramel Dipped Apples, Chocolate Peanut Brittle, Nut and Caramel Clusters, Coffee Walnut Caramel Candies, Chocolate Truffles (6 kinds); White Chocolate, Grand Marnier, Espresso, Caramel, Nut, Cappucino

Feb. 16: Ultimate Chicken Recipes and Side Dishes—Chicken Fried Portuguese style with Mustard Iberian Style Chicken (My Version) Nut Coated Chicken with Curry, Chicken in Vinegar and Tomato Sauce, Herb Chicken Roast with Green Onions, Side Dishes

Feb. 17: Gourmet Hot Pot/Shabu-Shabu—A Meal in a Pot, Easy to Prepare and very Delicious! Beef, Chicken, Pork, Lamb, Shrimp, Fish, Vegetables, Shabu-Shabu and Hot Marinades, A lot of Dipping Sauces and Relishes

Feb. 19: Lutong Bahay "Gourmet Filipino"—Tomato Sinangag with Mixed Vegetables, Ube Chicken Rice, Afritada with Roasted Bell Peppers, Eggplant and Chicken Tinola, Tortang Talong with Honey Catsup, Binagoongang Baboy with Garlic Chips, Pandan Gulaman, Dipping Sauces

Feb. 21: Trip to Vietnam—Beef Noodles Soup (Banh Pho Bo), Vietnamese Spring Rolls and Dipping Sauces, Stir Fried Crabs Vietnamese Style, Lemon Grass Chicken, Vietnamese Fried Rice, Vietnamese Plan and Iced Lemon Grass Tea

Feb. 23: "Repeat" Spanish Favorites—Gazpacho, Gambas à la Piancha, Fabada, Callos, Lengua, Paella Valencia, Dulce De Leche

Feb. 24: "Repeat" Baby Back Ribs—Citrus, Balsamic Vinegar, Spiced Rum, Honey Curry, Bourbon Mustard, Mango, Side Dishes

Feb. 26: "Special Class" Foie Gras—Sautéed Foie Gras of Goose Liver with Apple Jullienne, Pastries of Pear with Foie Gras, Pan Fried Foie Gras with Homemade Flavored Honey, Green Apples with Foie Gras and Black Truffles, Salad of Roasted Foie Gras with Peaches, Escalope of Foie Gras with Mushrooms in Balsamic Vinegar

Feb. 28: The Best of Fusion 2—Fruit and Scallop Tortilla Salad, Duck Noodle Soup, Tamarind Roast Chicken, Hoisin Ribs with Pine Leek Relish, Roast Goose with Cassava Stuffing served with Plum Sauce, Macadamia Terrine.

Music, candy and blooms

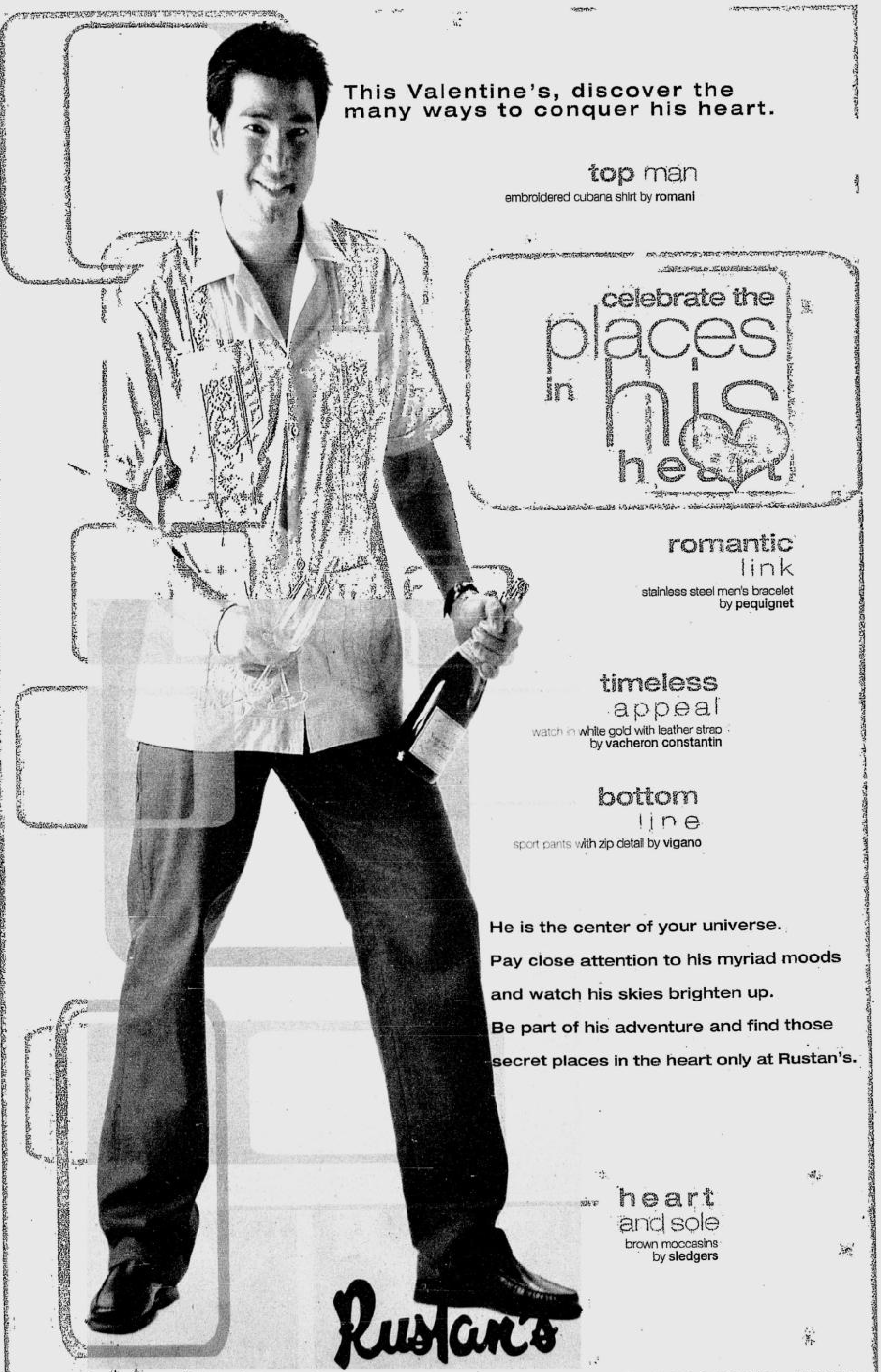
CHOCOLATES, flowers and music that will put you in the love mood await you at the Foodpark at the Enterprise and Marketplace Foodcourt at the Times Plaza.

Foodpark at the Enterprise, the favorite food and entertainment hangout of Makati's young business professionals, will feature in February a series of activities dedicated to the Love Month. Great Divide kicks off the season with their acoustic set on Feb. 8. On Valentine's Day, get ready for a special concert by the 14-man R and B Corporation Band. The group will serenade guests with their repertoire of R&B hits. These two concerts will be presented by Joey 92.3 Rhythm and Paradigm Personal Care Salon.

Romantics looking for gifts for their loved ones will find at the Foodpark a variety of Valentine booths—chocolates from Sweet Impulse, flowers from Petal Attraction and cute tokens from Gifts and Baskets. Other Valentine's promos are available at the different food stalls. Foodpark at the Enterprise is located on the 4/L, The Enterprise, Ayala corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

Valentine's Month at Marketplace Foodcourt at Times Plaza is no less exciting with Flower Circle providing the floral sale display. On Feb. 16, a post-Valentine concert acoustic concert will be staged by Fever. There will also be regular band nights every Friday night at the Marketplace. That same night, Marketplace features "Stand Out," the Marketplace's own version of MTV's "Singled Out." The dating game will begin at 4 p.m.

Marketplace Foodcourt is located on the 3/L Times Plaza, UN corner Taft Avenue, Manila.


This Valentine's, discover the many ways to conquer his heart.

top man
embroidered cubana shirt by **romani**

celebrate the places in his heart

romantic link
stainless steel men's bracelet by **pequignet**

timeless appeal
watch in white gold with leather strap by **vacheron constantin**

bottom line
sport pants with zip detail by **vigano**

He is the center of your universe.
Pay close attention to his myriad moods
and watch his skies brighten up.
Be part of his adventure and find those
secret places in the heart only at Rustan's.

heart and sole
brown moccasins by **sledgers**

Rustan's

MAKATI ▪ SHANGRI-LA PLAZA ▪ CUBAO ▪ HARRISON PLAZA ▪ ALABANG ▪ CEBU

Slices of heaven from a purple oven

Once the best-kept secret of cafés and restaurants that serve excellent desserts, this bakeshop now delivers right to your doorstep

DESSERT MAVENS. Icee and Jack Colet

BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA

FROM THE OUTSIDE it's a small, nondescript shop situated across a church on a quiet street off bustling Edsa. Upon entry, one gets a sensory overload from the aroma that comes from the kitchen upstairs and the sight of cakes lining the glass counter. Purple, the color of excellence, is an appropriate motif for this shop owned and run by young, good-looking couple Jack and Icee Colet.

Both come from large families with a passion for food. As a little girl, Icee recalls puttering around the kitchen, experimenting with all sorts of recipes. With no formal training in the culinary arts and after a decade of working for a printing press and an American multinational, husband and wife decided to venture into a business they knew they would both enjoy and have a passion for.

Tried and tested

Purple Oven formally opened its doors in October of 1999. From a lean staff of five, it now has a manageable 22. The treasures that come out of Purple Oven's kitchen have all been tried and tested by Jack, Icee and their families and friends. "We must like the product before we offer it. If we don't like it, we don't sell it." Jack explains.

Purple Oven's client base is divided equally between institutional (restaurants, cafés and hotels) and individual customers. Thus, when you buy a chocolate cake or a box of cinnamon rolls from Purple Oven, the delicious, distinct taste may be all too familiar. From a favorite restaurant or café perhaps? Their clients come to them by word-of-mouth and it may be safe to say that the Purple Oven has become one of dessert world's best-kept secrets. Not for long though.

To drool for

The Purple Oven's goodies can best be described as "to drool for"—from the plump, golden yellow Rum Cake aged with a special rum glaze; the moist, dark Chocolate Cake topped with luscious layers of chocolate icing; the selection of cheesecakes (Blueberry, New York and Oreo); the classic Sansrival with a generous sprinkling of nuts (don't you just hate it when they scrimp on the nuts?) to the round, chewy Cinnamon Rolls topped with a white creamy frosting.

For weight watchers, there is nutty Carrot Cake with a hint of spices, topped with rich cream icing, or Banana Loaf packed with chocolate chips and walnut bits.

For coffee lovers, the ideal pair for your cappuccino can be found here in the form of chunky chewy Chocolate Chip Cookies, Old-fashioned Oatmeal Raisin Cookies that come in really large portions, or a Double Cocolate Biscotti, twice-baked and very crunchy.

To your doorstep

Within the shop itself, there is no space to sit and sip coffee and dive into a favorite dessert. Although there is quite a number of walk-in customers, most orders are placed by phone and rightly so. Purple Oven has the unique distinction of being one of the very few bakeshops that deliver the goodies right to your doorstep. Frequent customers known to the couple can just ring the shop and place an order. "Like flowers," Icee says smiling.

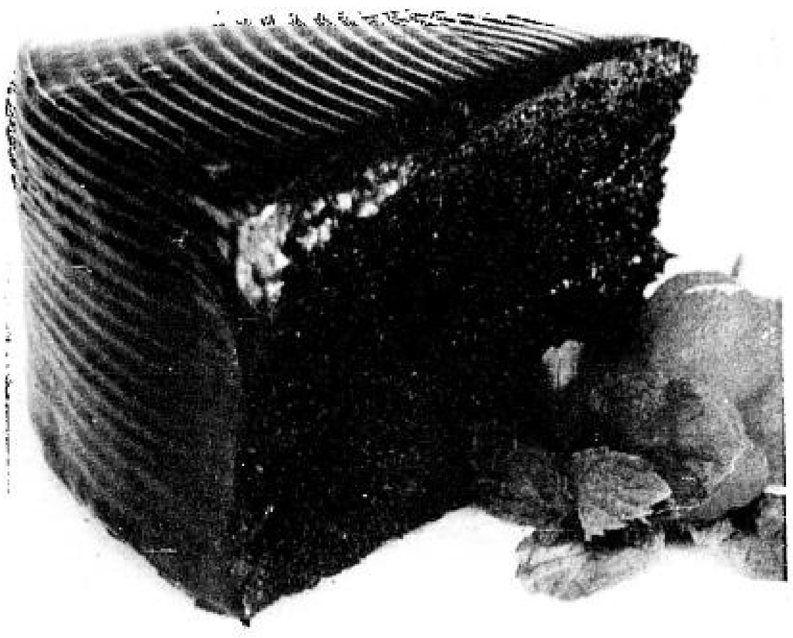
The cakes, loaves and pies come wrapped in a no-nonsense purple and white box. The Purple Oven will deliver to most parts of Metro Manila for a small delivery fee. For orders amounting to P1,000 and up, the delivery fee is waived.

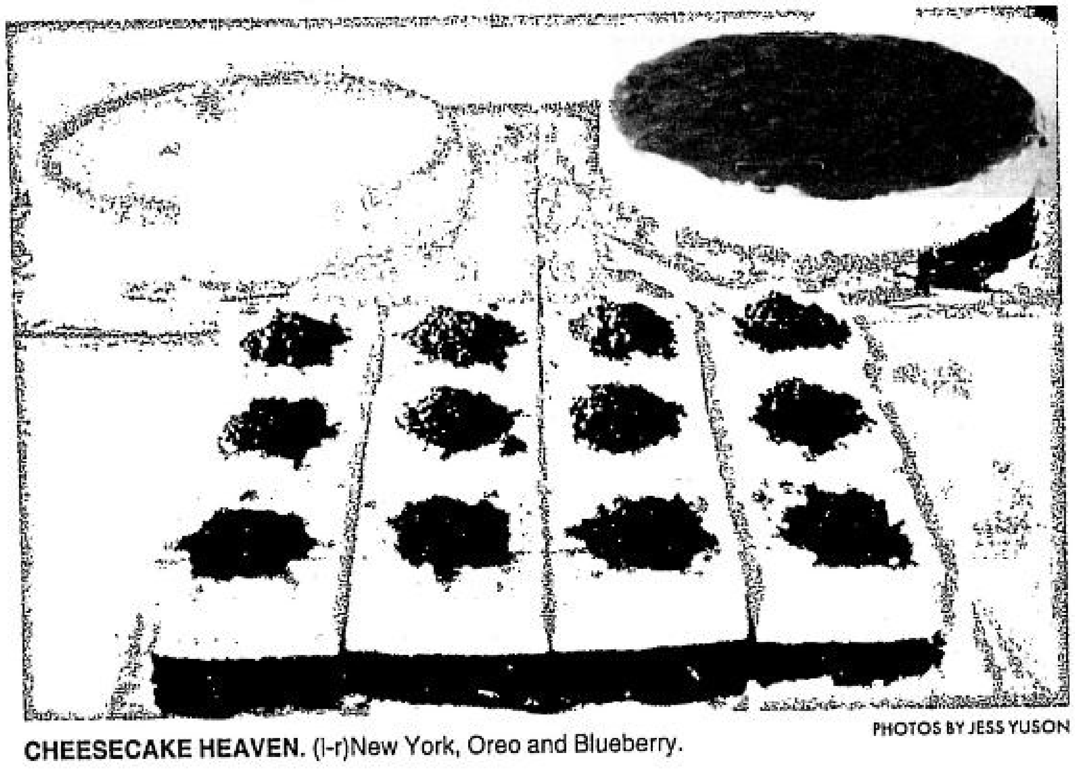
On Valentine's day, don't fret if roses are too hard and expensive to order. Go for the Purple Oven Chocolate Cake and it will be just as sweet.

Purple Oven is located at 16 Vancouver St., Cubao, QC. Call 724-9459 or 727-5198.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

DOUBLE CHOCOLATE BISCOTTI. Twice baked and crunchy.


TO DROOL FOR. Classic Chocolate cake.


CHEESECAKE HEAVEN. (l-r)New York, Oreo and Blueberry.

PHOTOS BY JESS YUSON

Hot 'tamales' in 10 easy steps

BY VANGIE BAGA- REYES
PHOTOS BY MIKE ALQUINTO

DIANA Santamaria vividly recalls the times when she and her siblings would help their Imá (Capampangan term for mother) in the kitchen of their ancestral house in Guagua, Pampanga. "We would slice onions, peel garlic and assist in making *galapong* (rice flour) for our favorite *merienda*," she says with a wistful smile.

Diana remembers the long hours her mom would spend in the kitchen preparing one of the favorite snacks Pampanga is known for: *Tamales.* As her mom cooked *tamales*, Diana would watch her curiously because "I could never figure out how my mother could concoct something so delicious."

The Capampangan version is not to be confused with the Mexican tamale which comes in tortilla wrapping. *Tamales,* Pampango version, is a special rice delicacy topped with eggs, meat slices, peanuts and other condiments and wrapped in banana leaf and steamed. "*Tamales* is one dish we grew up loving," Diana says. The recipe is simple and easy to follow. The ingredients are readily available.

While Diana and her sisters worshipped their mom's cooking, they lost no time in trying their own hands in the kitchen until they imbibed their mom's kitchen magic. Eventually, the culinary skills their mom passed on to them would serve them in good stead. They opened Imá Restaurant 26 years ago. The restaurant serves a variety of Kapampangan dishes, including *tamales*.

Diana shares with our readers the family's recipe for *tamales*, which is ideal for all occasions. Cooking time is less than 2 hours.

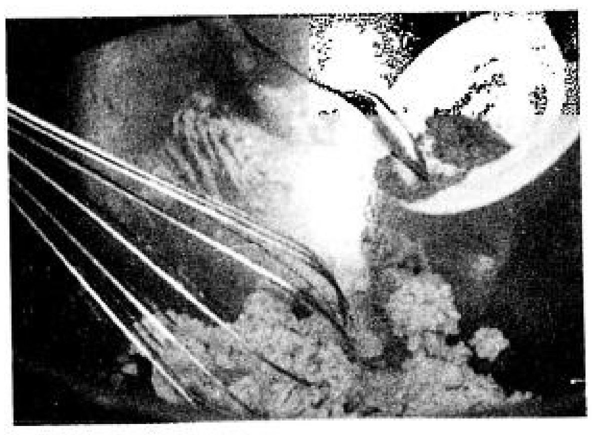
The ingredients needed are:

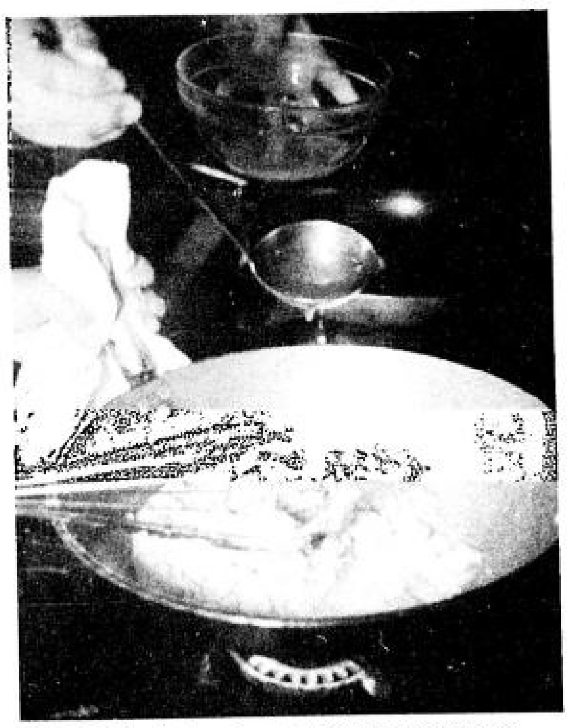
1 c rice flour
1 c coconut milk
2 ½ c chicken broth
¼ tsp brown sugar
1 tsp salt
½ tsp pepper
3 tbsp peanut butter or ground peanut
½ c cooked pork, cut into strips
1 pc sliced cooked ham
½ c thinly sliced *chorizo*
2 pcs hard-boiled egg, sliced

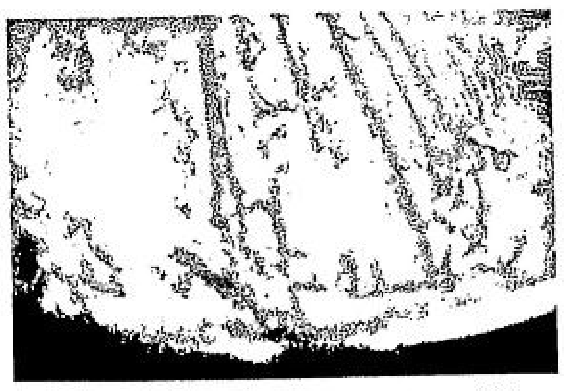
STEP-BY-STEP

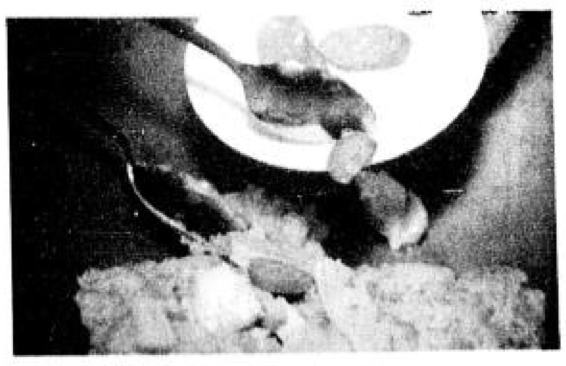
1 **TOAST** rice flour over moderate heat until golden brown. Remove from heat and let it cool.

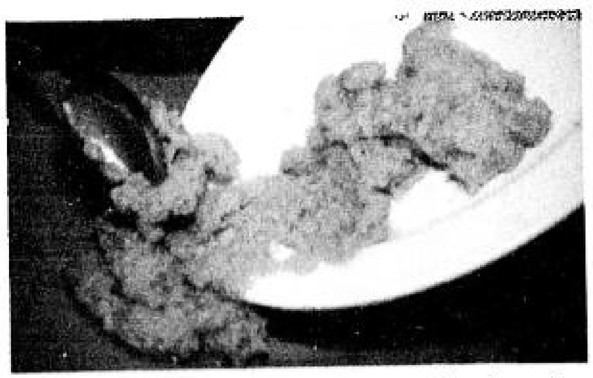
2 **IN A BOWL,** put the rice flour and add coconut milk, stirring constantly until it is smooth.

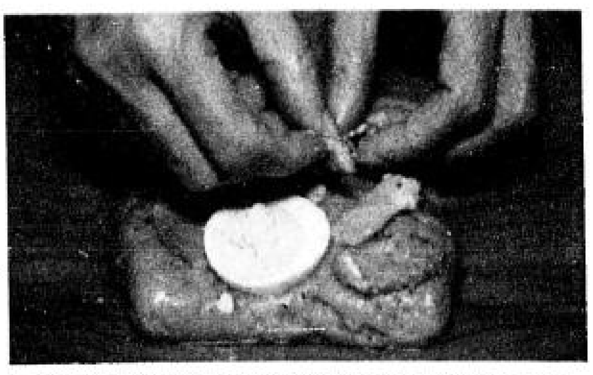

3 **ADD** peanut butter, salt, sugar and pepper.

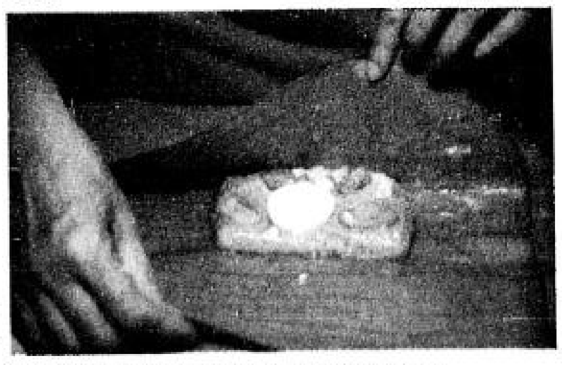

4 **COOK** mixture in a carajay over moderate heat. Add chicken broth.


5 **CONTINUE** stirring until it turns into a thick paste.

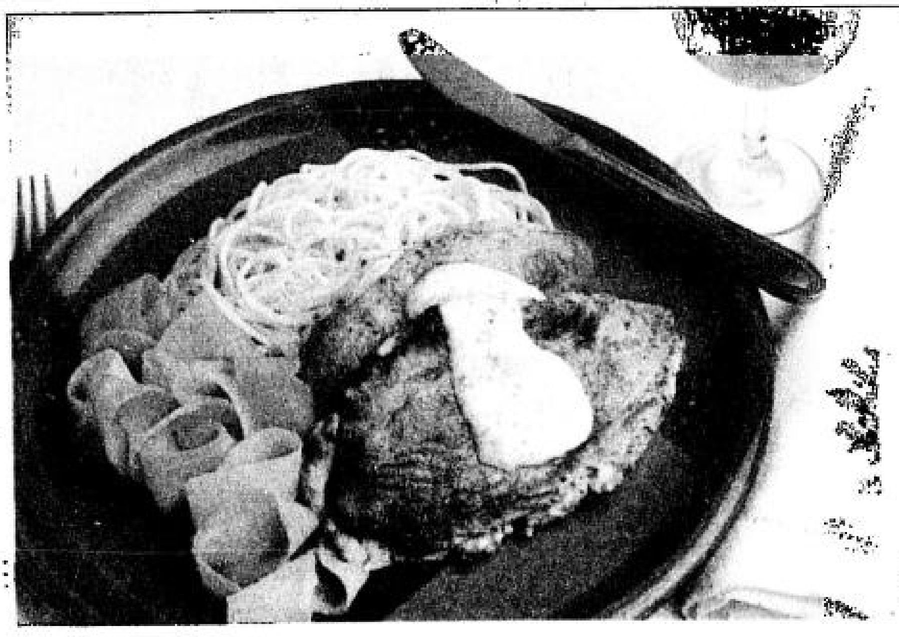

6 **ADD** half of the pork, chicken, ham and *chorizo* to the cooked mixture.


7 **TRANSFER** mixture into a rectangular piece of banana leaf and flatten top.


8 **ARRANGE** the remaining meat and sliced hard-boiled egg on top.


9 **WRAP** with banana leaf in four folds.

10 **TIE** with a piece of banana string and steam.

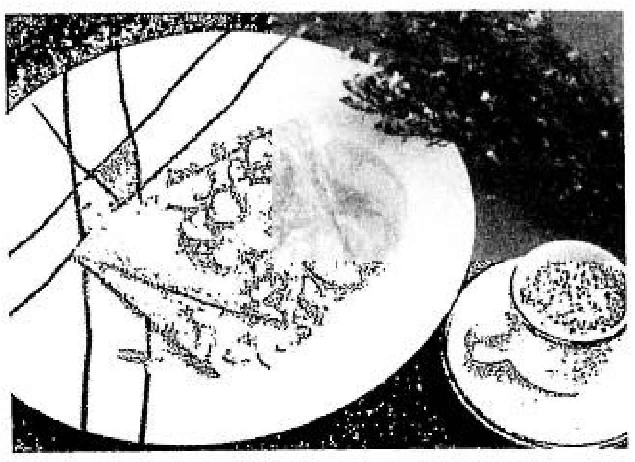


PAN-GRILLED Chicken Aioli

Cook your way to your beloved's heart

PLANNING a romantic Valentine's dinner? You don't have to spend a whole month's salary just to be able to dine with the one you love. Surprise her and make the evening more special by preparing these amorous, yet hassle-free recipes yourself. The San Miguel Food Group Culinary Center suggests this menu: Cream of Broccoli Soup, Chicken Aioli and Apple Crepes with Praline Sauce using Anchor Butter, Campo Carne Bacon Toppings and Magnolia Chicken. These recipes will surely impress her!

For more recipes, visit www.smfgculinary.com.ph. or www.sanmiguel.com or send a self-addressed stamped envelope to San Miguel Food Group Culinary Center, Legaspi corner Eagle Streets, Barangay Ugong, Pasig City.



BUTTER sautéed Apple Crepes with Praline Sauce

Cream of Broccoli Soup

¼ c Anchor Butter
1/3 c chopped onions
1½ c broccoli, cut into flowerettes
1½ pc chicken bouillon cubes, dissolved in 2½ c water
1 c all-purpose cream
2 tbsp all-purpose flour
Ground black pepper to taste
¼ c cooked Campo Carne Bacon Toppings

Melt butter in a saucepan. Sauté onions and broccoli. Pour in stock and cook covered for 10 to 15 minutes. Remove from heat and transfer broccoli chunks in a food processor or blender. Purée until a coarse mixture is achieved. Return mixture to saucepan and add cream. Continue to cook over moderate heat.

Place flour in a small bowl. Stir in 1/3 c of soup mixture and mix well until lumps are no longer seen. Return mixture to saucepan and blend well with the rest of the soup mixture. Continue to cook until soup slightly thickens. Season with pepper to taste.

To serve, pour soup into individual serving bowls. Top with bacon bits and serve immediately. Makes 4 servings.

Chicken Aioli

½ pc deboned Magnolia Chicken Breasts (from 2 whole pcs. about 400 g raw weight)
½ tsp salt
1 tsp minced garlic
2 tsp Worcestershire sauce
3 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
Freshly ground black pepper

Sauce:
2 tbsp minced garlic
3 tbsp calamansi juice
½ tsp Worcestershire sauce
¼ tsp salt
Freshly ground black pepper
½ c mayonnaise
1 tbsp chopped parsley

In a bowl, combine salt, garlic, Worcestershire sauce, olive oil and freshly ground pepper. Marinate chicken for at least 1 hour. Pan-grill chicken breasts on a thick bottom skillet over moderate heat until cooked through. Remove from heat and serve warm with prepared sauce.

Sauce: Mix all ingredients in a bowl. Chill until ready to use. Makes 4 servings.

Apple Crepes with Praline Sauce

Apple filling:
¼ c Anchor Butter
4 c red apples, sliced into wedges
1 c water
2/3 c sugar
½ tsp cinnamon
2 tbsp maple syrup
1 tsp lemon juice
2 tsp cornstarch
Topping:
¼ c toasted nuts (almond slivers, chopped walnuts or cashew)
Powdered sugar

Prepare basic dessert crepe. Set aside.

Sauté apples in butter. Add water, sugar, cinnamon, maple syrup and lemon juice. Thicken slightly with cornstarch dissolved in water.

Fill half of crepes, then fold over, then fold again in quarters to form a wedge. Serve on a platter. Sift powdered sugar on top of crepes and sprinkle with nuts. Makes 9 crepes.

Food for love

(From page C1)

½ tsp whole black pepper, ground
1/8 c soy sauce
¼ tsp vetsin
1 pc *laurel* leaf
2 pcs *sili labuyo*, sliced
1/8 c cooking oil
1 tsp rock salt

Wash fertilized duck egg (*balot*). Put in a clean casserole. Pour in water approximately 6 inches above the egg surface. Bring to boil for 1 hour. Remove cooked *balot* in boiling water. Soak immediately in running tap water to cool. Peel cooked *balot*. Put in a clean bowl including the sauce. Add vinegar, soy sauce, black pepper ground, vetsin, *laurel* leaf, salt and sliced *labuyo*.

Sauté garlic until golden brown. Separate half of fried garlic and set aside. Add marinated *balot*. Bring to boil for 2 minutes. Agitate wok in a low fire. Continue simmering for 20 minutes until done. Taste then serve.

ADJI Tiongson (left), Cabalen's product development officer, in food demo with Bambi Licauco

EMPORIO ARMANI

A V-day tip in a flash

To impress your date, magpaka-plastic ka.

This Valentine's, why carry paper bills when you can carry the card that's got more flash? Have your BPI Express Cash ready for the big day. To get one, just go to any BPI or BPI Family Bank Metro Manila branch or call 89-100. You can also log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com. So on V-day, you're ready to flash it anywhere you see the MasterCard Electronic Seal. *Kaya magpaka-plastic ka na.* Get a BPI Express Cash!

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership

NEW ***BPI Express Cash***
it's cash you can flash!

Treat your loved ones to a special meal this Valentine

DINING OUT

SBARRO has prepared a special meal this Valentine's Day. The meal includes a half serving of Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, half Baked Ziti with Alfredo Sauce, Garden Fresh Salad, dessert, two medium-size Iced Tea and a special gift from Sbarro starting Feb. 12. Sbarro branches are at SM City, SM Megamall, Glorietta 2, Robinsons Place and Festival Supermall.

MANILA DIAMOND. Celebrate Valentine's Day at the hotel's restaurant, Le Bellevue. Try the eight-course dinner set menu prepared by executive chef Pablo Logro. Start with Entremeses Variados, an appetizer of Mediterranean Seafood in Olive Oil, Les Consomme de Vermicelli, a beef broth soup served with Angel Hair pasta; Les Salade De Saison, salad of vegetables with French dressing and Strawberry Sorbet, to cleanse your palate in preparation for the main entrée. For the main course, a choice of seafood or steak is offered. Try desserts like Pink Chocolate Parfait topped with Parisienne Fruits and Ginger biscuit. Call 526-2211 local 1520/-21.

TRADERS. Avail of a buffet dinner at the Poolside, plus an option to stay either in a superior room for only P1,500 or in a Traders Club room at P3,000 per couple. Included in this room package is Continental Breakfast. Call 527-9107 or 523-7011.

INTER-CON. Gourmet friends and lovers can hie off to the famed Prince Albert Rotisserie, on Feb. 13-14 for Chef Cyrille Soenen's Valentine spells. Try Menu du Saint Valentin, Pan-fried Duck Liver with Balsamic Sauce, Mesclun Salad and a Medley of Fruits, Roasted Rock Lobster on a Bed of Mashed Celeriac with Cream Lettuce Sauce and Crispy Serrano Ham are some of the dishes that figure in this menu.

Try the all-time table favorites like Roasted Peking Duck, Lechon de Leche and Beef Teriyaki. Other treats at Hotel Inter-Continental are Café Jeepney's Mediterranean and Seafood lunch and dinner buffet, Le Boulevardier's evening showband performances, La Terrasse's wines, cocktails and cigar divan, and the Jeepney Bakery's cakes and sweets. Call 819-0645 or 815-9711.

MANDARIN. Executive chef Norbert Gandler prepares an eight-course Valentine dinner at The Tivoli. Sumptuous feasts will be available at The Brasserie and Tin Hau. At Tin Hau, couples will have the opportunity for a free 15-minute consultation with renowned geomancer Joseph Chau if they come in a group of six and consume a minimum of P3,800 worth of food and beverages. Call 750-8888.

EDSA SHANGRI-LA. On Feb.13 and 14, Summer Palace will be offering special set menus including Roast Suckling Pig and Beijing Duck, Shark's Fin Soup, scallops, abalone and prawns. Garden Cafe also serves Asian and Continental dishes such as Paella Rice, Osso Buco, Hainanese chicken, Beef Bulgogi, Halabos na Ulang, Prime Ribs and Lechon Baboy, and assorted salads and desserts. Savor "Italian Amore" as Paparazzi's resident chef whips up his specialties such as Tuna Carpaccio, Mozzarella Salad, Pan-fried Turbot Fillet on Parmesan Potato Puree, Black Truffle Risotto with Lobster Tail, Roast Veal Tenderloin, and Chocolate Croquant with Honey Ice Cream. At Inaho Tei, savor the buffet of Sushi, Sashimi, Maki, Teppanyaki, Agemonos and more. The Lobby Lounge offers a dinner buffet of Beef Carpaccio, prawns and mussels, Roast Duck Breast, Prime Ribs, Yorkshire pudding, salads, cakes, and pastries. Call 633-8888.

BURGOO. This American bar and restaurant offers dishes such as Oklahoma-Style Grilled Baby Back Ribs, Country-Style Fried Chicken, Hamburgoo, Supreme Pizza, Seafood Linguini, among others, Burgoo is offering 30 new mouthwatering dishes. Pick your choice: Beef Stroganoff Linguine, Bread Pudding à la Mode, Chicken Quesadilla, Grilled Chicken Sandwich, Oyster Parmigiana, Taco Pizza and many more.

Don't forget the main entrée such as Grilled T-Bone Steak, Fillet Mignon, Seafood di Napoli, Lamb Chops, Quattro del Pesce, Red Snapper Clasico. Burgoo's equally luscious desserts such as Raspberry Cheesecake, Hot Fudge Brownies, Apple Caramelina and the new addition to the menu—Tiramisu. Burgoo American bar and Restaurant is at 310 Tomas Morato Extension, South Triangle, Diliman, QC.

CPH. Enjoy the Chocolate Praline in a Box and the bigger size Polish Sausage, which is a combination of beef and pork, spices and other ingredients to give this sausage a distinct not too spicy flavor. On Valentine's Day, the Deli Snack features a heart-shaped cake. Call 528-5855 to -56.

THIS February, Maxims Pastry Shop of The Manila Midtown Hotel pays tribute to lovers with an incredible cake creation that is simply an incomparable symphony of flavors that will play havoc on your senses. Rich chocolate, creamy vanilla, fresh and luscious strawberries make a devastating combination. Call 526-7001 local 6561.

Happy Valentines

SPECIAL Valentine cakes, pralines, chocolates and pastries are available at the Deli of Dusit Hotel Nikko.

HOLIDAY Inn Manila offers Valentine goodies until Feb. 15. Partake of cookies and choose from heart-shaped Chocolate Chips, Mocca and Nuts, Palmeras and Oatmeal. Indulge on Valentine cakes like the Sweet Lips Strawberry, Lovers Brownie Delight, and Strawberry Roll, Chocolate Cup in Heart Cake, or choose to give your loved one pralines and chocolates. Call 526-1212 local 2326.

GOLD RANCH. Mouthwatering dishes at affordable prices are available at Gold Ranch on Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road), Makati. Treat your loved ones with a special Valentine set menu. Start off with a free glass of wine and appetizer of hot smoked salmon on mesclun or cream of grilled asparagus soup with Parmesan crisps. Tuck in to a main course of Beef of Tournedos Caprice or duet of prawns and *lapu-lapu* served with gingered vegetable roulade and your choice of rice or nouvelle potatoes.

LA PRIMAVERA. The premier Italian restaurant has prepared a special Valentine set menu.

For starters, there's a choice of *crema di funghi porcini con aglio e zafferaqno,* mushroom soup with garlic pearl and saffron flower; or *insalatina di valeriana alla mimosa,* green salad on Italian-ginger dressing sprinkled with chopped egg.

There are two main courses to choose from. There's *Costoletta di agnello nicoise,* lamb cutlets based with rosemary and basil oil served with nicoise vegetables and curry creamed potatoes. The other is *merluzzo fresco in umido con pomodori,* braised codfish in tomato compote and peas with lemon grass flavor served with coconut rice and cilantro.

Dessert is a choice of *toga di spumone bianco e neri di ciocolate con sugo di* frutta, chocolate mouse cake with almond crust garnished with mango-strawberry yogurt; or *cassata tennis* with espresso sauce. La Primavera is at Legazpi Street, Greenbelt, Makati City and at El Pueblo, Ortigas.

MANILA MIDTOWN. The Maxims Pastry Shop of The Manila Midtown Hotel, has prepared extra special Valentine treats. Among the delights are heart-shaped cakes which are available from Feb. 12-18. Call 526-7001 local 656.

NEW WORLD RENAISSANCE. The hotel's Bocarinos provides Mediterranean cuisine from Feb. 12-15. The Coffee Shop will be the center of Valentine activity with a wide selection of international fare and desserts for dinner. For a more Oriental Valentine's, the hotel's expert chefs display their culinary wizardry as they prepare a lavish buffet of Cantonese delights at the Emperor Court. Call 811-6888.

MANILA GALLERIA. Savor the exotic dishes of Europe with Manila Galleria Suites' Scandinavian Specials until Feb. 17. Platters of salmon, herring Bismarck and roll-up will indulge your senses to the experience of the Atlantic. Try salads with crustaceans, shellfish, mussels and crabs with the hint of Sweden, Denmark and Finland at the Raphael Café Restaurant. Aromatic cheeses and sausages are also available. Call 633-7111 local 7440 and 7416.

ATRIUM. The hotel is offering "expecTASTEions" at the Coffee Shop, Feb. 12-14. Savor the flavors of Shrimps Mango Delight or Shrimps Roulade while loading up with their Seafood's Chowder or Cream Asparagus Soup. Atrium Café is at the 15/F Lobby Lounge of Atrium Hotel, Pasay City. Call 552-0351 local 1519/1523-24.

CAFÉ FONTANA. Fancy a romantic Valentine Special Dinner Buffet at Café Fontana, dinner by candlelight or at the poolside with an accompanying string quartet, overnight stay for two in a deluxe room with buffet breakfast; flower for the lady; glass of wine; surprise for lovers; free use of the swimming pool; and a chance town for a three-day-two-night stay at the different resorts. Promo runs from Feb. 13-15. Call 526-8588.

DUSIT. Celebrate Valentine's Day at Dusit Hotel's Ciao Restaurant with a romantic Italian dinner for two. Start with servings of Smoked Veal Kidney on Mesclun Mix in Apple Balsamic Vinaigrette and Seafood Medley on Pouch in Lobster Bisque Sauce. Followed by Essence of Porcini Mushrooms Garnished with Shimeji Mushrooms and Vegetable Springs, together with a glass of Raspberry Champagne Sherbet.

For the main course, there is the Baked Salmon Papillote in Beetroot Red Wine Butter Sauce, Pesto Risotto and Glaced Asparagus and Carrots or Crusted Veal Medallion with Crispy Eggplant in Truffle Essence Sauce, Beetroot Potato Mousseline and Chiffonade of Vegetables. A dessert of Chocolate Mint Parfait will be served, plus your choice of coffee or tea with petit fours. Call 867-3333, local 3943.

LE SOUFFLÉ. This bistro restaurant and wine bar offers its Valentine menu: Crisp Arugula Salad (topped with freshly shaved Parmesan flakes in balsamic vinaigrette dressing), Le Soufflé Panfried Goose Liver (in raspberry honey sauce on pear heart compote), Petite Creamy Lobster Bisque (with garlic croutons), US Black Angus Rib-Eye and Mushroom Roulade (in bourguignonne sauce, Le Soufflé-style baked potato and sautéed vegetables).

There's also Medallions of Lamb "Herb de Provençe" in Rosemary Jus (with roasted vegetable salad in goat cheese-flavored vinaigrette dressing). For the main course, the bistro features Panfried Fillet of Seabass "Almondine" (in munier sauce, homemade mashed potato and choice vegetables in season). Desserts include chocolate pudding on vanilla ice cream with crocant and assorted berries compote and Cherry and Almond Parfait (on crunchy almond short bread with chocolate sauce).

Le Soufflé Bistro Restaurant and Wine Bar is located at the 2/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Ruby Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig. Call 636-1614 or 634-8971.

Buying up bells and unlocking the mystery of Thai cuisine

(From page C8)

of which I had purchased before my most recent trip. None of them had been able to capture the spirit of Thai cooking that I had tasted on my previous stays in Bangkok, nor did any of them allow me to replicate the complex flavors of their dishes. I learned Western cuisine myself at home, without disparaging the great deal that I learned during my classes at the Cordon Bleu. I can safely say that most of my knowledge of French cuisine was learned from cookbooks, by carrying out various recipes by rote. You followed the instructions and somehow, they worked. For some reason, Thai cuisine never "worked" for me.

So this time, on the pretext of broadening my fields of expertise as a food writer, I trooped off to the Thai cookery school in Chiang Mai. I didn't approach it with anything like the reverence with which I went off to France to worship at the temples of haute cuisine. I just wanted to be able to come home and cook the Greatest Hits, as it were, of Thai cuisine: pad thai, tom yum kung, green and red curries. The original course I had signed up for was at the Oriental Hotel, but then at the last minute I was warned that it was very touristy and namby-pamby, and was referred to another (much cheaper) course in Chiang Mai, an hour by plane to the north of Bangkok.

Chiang Mai is difficult to describe; it's like Baguio (in the mountains), Cebu (it's their second largest city, and the first to be founded) and Boracay (it caters largely to tourists, as witness the proliferation of banana pancake stalls) rolled into one. It's also the arts and crafts center of Thailand: if you've ever gone mad in the Chatuchak Market in Bangkok, or even for the Thai objects at Firma or Estilo, this is where they come from. It's the womb from which springs forth innumerable quantities of lacquered bowls, beaten silvervases, silk cushion slipcovers, wooden carvings and more buddhas than Mr. Buddha had cells in his body when he was alive.

Bells

Since I'm into interior decoration mode at the moment, I proudly eschewed all the tourist tat in Bangkok, in the belief that I would have a wider selection and better prices at the source. I was wrong. Chiang Mai is a destination that attracts a particular sort of tourist, many of whom look like they dropped acid sometime in the '70s and resurfaced about 10 days ago. Stall after stall of tour operators masquerading as "local information services" promised treks in the mountains: "Never-before seen scenery! Off the beaten track! Not touristy!" There is, I think, nothing more touristy than trying not to be a tourist, except perhaps actually buying a plaster buddha.

On my Jacques Garcia-inspired search for "antiques," I was directed to shops at the Night Market where a smooth-talking Thai assured me that these carvings were surreptitiously ripped from temple gateways (as if I would support gangs of temple-looting brigands, anyway), while at the back, a workman without any sign of embarrassment chipped away at a half-carved slab of wood. I did find a few shops where there was carpeting on the floor, there were reference books on the shelves, and plenty of well-directed halogen lighting illuminating various bits of wood with preposterous prices. These, I supposed, were the real "antiques." It was only on my last day that I finally found the sort of antique shop that I had been looking for all along: small, dark and crammed to the rafters with other people's junk, all covered in multitudinous layers of dust and cobwebs.

LOTS of chili

THAI temple

PHOTOS: CLINTON PALANCA

It was here that I loaded up with all the Thai and Burmese objets d'art that I could carry home, including a gigantic train bell from an old locomotive, an old cowbell, a temple bell ("by striking they call monks to prayer"; the bell, not the monk, one presumes), a Chinese handbell and a gong. I like bells.

Antiques are not what most people look for in Chiang Mai, though. Sex, drugs and, well, not rock 'n' roll but incredibly annoying Thai music, assault you from all directions. Every single time I boarded a *tuk-tuk* (basically, an overgrown tricycle that runs on kerosene), which was several times a day, the driver would very matter of factly hand me a brochure and persuade me to try his favorite, personally recommended, body massage whorehouse. There are, apparently, "sex" shows where women can do everything with their private parts, including smoking, drinking from a straw, making pencil sketches and firing darts (that last one might, I suppose, offer an explanation as to why Thailand has never been colonized by a Western power). A friend of mine, who had gone trekking in the hills, was offered opium and heroin. Sex, drugs, dart-firing twats and plaster Buddhas: what more could a tourist want?

Massage

One pleasure I did indulge myself in, though, was the Thai massage. A few spas in Manila offer fairly authentic Thai massages; the closest that I had previously been familiar with is the Japanese shiatsu massage. It was originally done in temples; a friend of mine tried it there, for authenticity, and came back with horror stories of a shriveled monk yanking her arms out with his foot alarmingly close to her vagina. I prudently decided to be a tourist and wandered into one of the literally hundreds of massage places that dot the city. For 100 baht (roughly equivalent to the same amount in pesos), an amazingly energetic Thai woman stomps on your leg, tugs at your arms, and jumps up and down on your back. Your only job is to be as limp as a rag doll, and you come out feeling like you've had a workout. For another 100 baht, they did a foot reflexology massage, claiming to be healing my eye while grinding my toe into powder.

And, oh, yes, the food? I came back feeling that Thai food was almost as much of a mystery as it was before I left; it was just that the door had been unlocked and had swung open. I'm beginning to try and replicate, with varying degrees of success, the different dishes that we had been taught in the classes. Much of the problem, of course, lies with sourcing. Ironically, in places like London, where they have been infatuated with Thai food for years, the better-than-average grocery will stock things like *kaffir* lime leaves and *galangal*. I'm doing some research to figure out how different *kaffir* lime is from *dayap*, which it closely resembles. Thai fish sauce is different from our *patis*, as is their shrimp paste from our *bagoong*. *Galangal* is, as a friend put it, the evil cousin of ginger (it has horns and is hotter). One ingredient that I'm trying to find an equivalent for is what they call palm sugar, a pale brown sludgy stuff that is the crystallized sugar from palm sap (what we use, I suppose, to make *tuba*).

So now my bottles of cognac and extra-virgin olive oil are being joined by *nam pla* and *nam taan peep*, and I am hanging up a wok beside my Mauviel copper pans. I'm trying to unlearn some French techniques (such as simmering onions until they are melting, as opposed to keeping them crunchy), as well as some Indian ones (the Thai don't fry their spice mixtures, which are often wet and paste-like rather than dry). But that's intellectualizing it too much; my main goal is not to understand Thai cuisine, but to be able to cook pad thai as an alternative to instant noodles at 3 a.m.

In the meantime, to prove to my friends that I've actually brought something back from my trip, I bought packets of instant tom yum soup and premade curry pastes (just add coconut milk), which I'll cheat with while I'm practicing. Besides, I also have my spanking new collection of various bells, and, oh yes, well, there's that plaster Buddha.

If readers have further information about sourcing Thai ingredients and substitutions, please e-mail me at clinton@i-manila.com.ph.

ARTURO Go, Mario Sobrejuanite, Paul Almendras, Henry Peñalosa, Ana Tiaoqui, Randy Ortiz, Weena Almendras, Fr. Domie Guzman, Rudy Fuentes, Edgar Madamba and Lito Perez

HENRY Peñalosa, Fr. Domie Guzman, Paul Almendras, Mayor Mel Mathay, Ana Tiaoqui, Vilma Valera, Letty Ruiz, Susan Limjoco and Weena Almendras

VILMA Valera, Mayor Mel Mathay, Lia Colayco and Ferry Corsten

Almon Marina heads to Timog

ONCE again, restaurateurs Cesar Montelibano and Paul Almendras have opened a one-of-a-kind resto-bar that fuses food with an ambiance set for unwinding.

Almon Marina along Timog Avenue boasts of a food selection that includes gourmet salads and sandwiches, grilled specialties, pastas and a variety of rice dishes. The bar serves a wide range of cocktails and alcoholic drinks. Nature-inspired decor, such as dried twigs arranged in contemporary pots, and plants cozily surround the entire area.

The blessing of the first Almon Marina Resto-bar was officiated by Fr. Mario Sobrejuanite and Fr. Domie Guzman. The guests flowed in till the early hours of the morning, feasting on the recipes that Almon Marina is famous for. The bar was kept open through the night. Live music was played by a string quartet.

Later in the evening, house music prepared by Mark Tiaoqui echoed the walls of the resto-bar which kept the younger crowd swinging. And, of course, the presence of top international DJ Ferry Corsten added excitement to the evening.

Honorable Quezon City Mayor, Mel Mathay, Vilma Valera and Corsten cut the ribbon to open the restaurant.

MIA and Mark Tiaoqui

Caltex mart offers combo meals

THERE'S great news in store for all Caltex Star Mart patrons. This February, Caltex is offering five new combo meals that will surely appeal to those in the mood for romance. Not only that, Holland Tulips flowers can also be ordered at selected Caltex Star Mart outlets.

Billed as the Star Mart Luv Combo, the promo runs until Feb. 28. Under the promotion, Star Mart will introduce five reasonably priced combo offerings in all its outlets. The combo meals are:

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Combo 2—Free Hershey's Gift Box for every P40 purchase of Hershey's chocolates;

Combo 3—Nestlé Ice Cream Supreme pint and Cookie Bundle for as low as P65;

Combo 4—32 g Tofiluk and 350 ml Absolute Water for as low as P14; and

Combo 5—750 ml La Tondeña Oxford Gin and 330 ml Gordial Lime bundle with free shirt for only P90. (Available in Metro Manila only).

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Pizza Hut
Per DTI Permit No. 1184, Series of 2000.

Buying up bells and unlocking the mystery of Thai cuisine

THE MAD TEA PARTY

Clinton Palanca

"FOOD," begins one cookbook fairly typical of the genre, "is essential to the Thai person, and is an integral part of Thai life." This is to differentiate the Thai, one presumes, from other cultures, in which food is a peripheral option, to be indulged in a couple of times a year. "Its preparation can be very simple or very complicated." It is almost possible to imagine the bored copywriter yawning as he churned out sentence after meaningless sentence.

I have several Thai cookbooks at home, many

BUYING/ p.C6

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